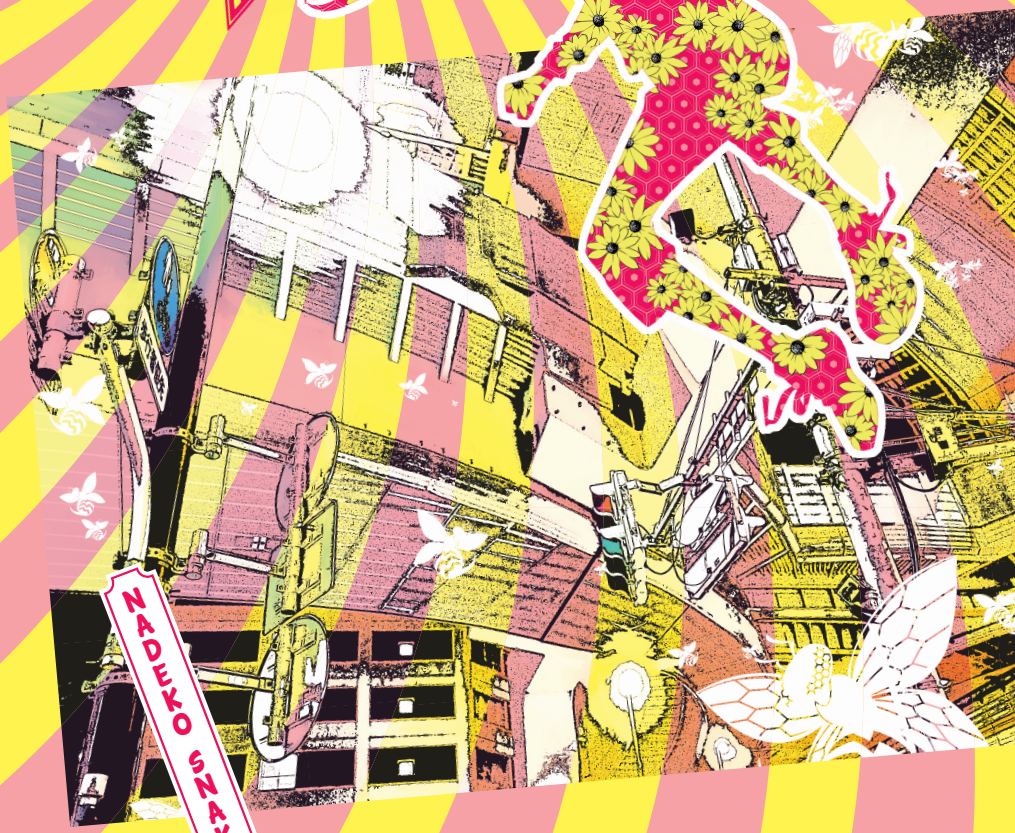
BAKEMONOGATARI
8
OH!GREAT
ORIGINAL STORY:
NISIOISIN
ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN


NADEKO SNAKE

BAKEMONOGATARI

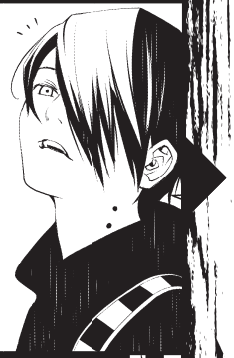
OH!GREAT

8

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

Original Character
Design: VOFAN

MAIN CHARACTERS



Koyomi Araragi

A boy who was attacked by a vampire. He is now working with Suruga in a desperate effort to save Nadeko, his little sister's friend, by dispelling a curse on her.

Nadeko Sengoku

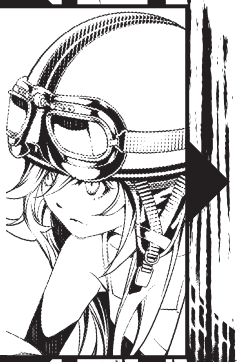
A girl in the grip of a "snake." She reunites with Koyomi as she searches for a way to rid herself of the pain she suffers while under the snake's curse.

Suruga Kanbaru

A girl who made a wish to a "monkey." Though the aberration ended up remaining in her left arm, she has resolved her own problems and is now helping Koyomi out with his latest task.

Mèmè Oshino

An expert on aberrations who has made the ruins of a former cram school his home. The man Koyomi goes to for advice whenever he happens upon an aberration.



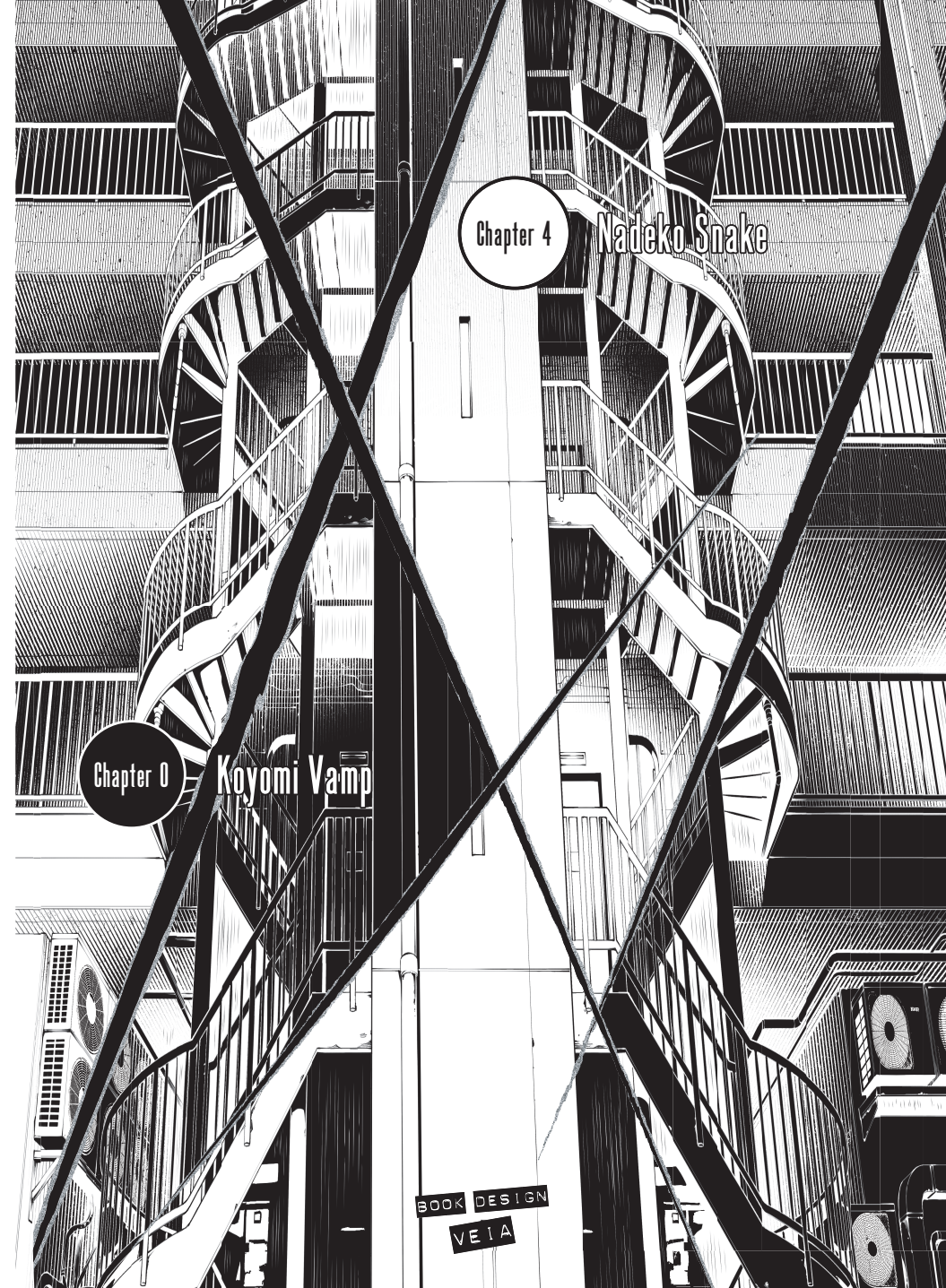
Shinobu Oshino

The shadow of the vampire who once attacked Koyomi. She was given her current name by Mèmè as a way to bind her existence.

Tsubasa Hanekawa

Koyomi's classmate who was once bewitched by a "cat." An honor student that no honor could sufficiently describe, and a class president among class presidents.

Nadeko Sengoku, a girl in the grip of a "snake," was searching for a way to undo the serpent's curse that causes her suffering, but nothing was working. She is then reunited with Koyomi, the older brother of one of her elementary-school classmates. He agrees to help her, and they seem to make good progress toward dispelling the curse...but when the situation takes a sudden turn, they come to realize something: There were two "snakes."


Chapter 4
Nadeko Snake
Chapter 0
Koyomi Vamp
BOOK DESIGN
VEIA

AHH
AHH
ZSSHH
AHH

SEN-GOKU !!
SHIT ...!!
ZSH
Catch up with me, Araragi.
KAN-BARU!
I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU!
WHOOSH
Yep! I've got this!

THWAP
THWAP
THWAP
THWAPP
COME WHEN YOU'RE DONE CHANG-ING!!
THAT'S WHY I SAID YOU CAN'T WEAR SOMETHING LIKE THAT HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS!!

There were so many hints I should have picked up on... But I didn't notice any of them until just now...

There were two!!

There wasn't just one Jagirinawa...!!

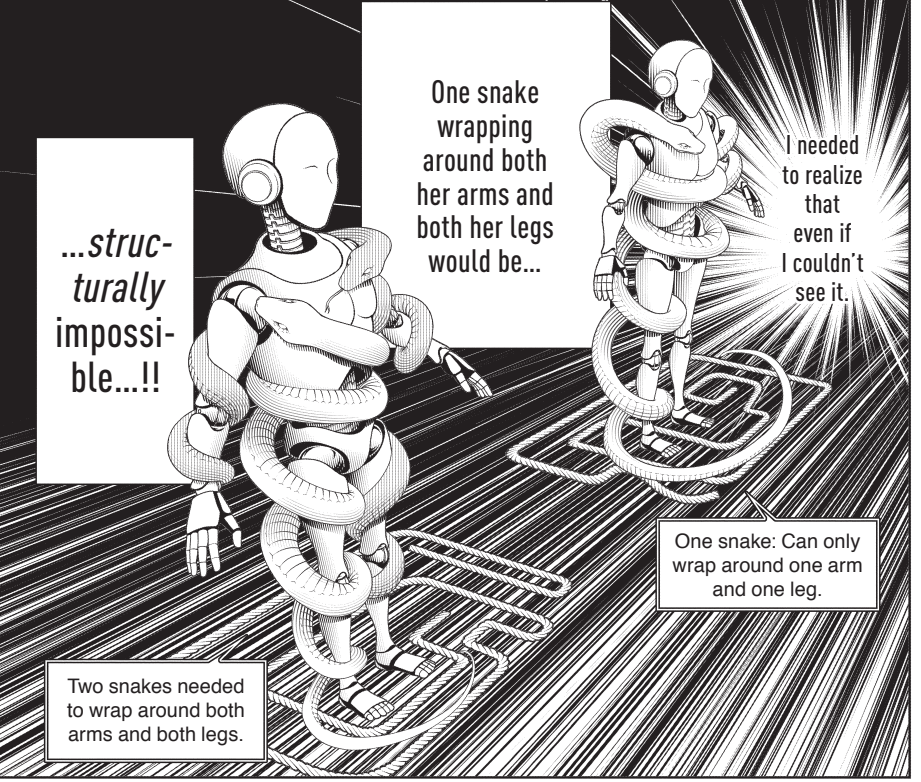
Dam-mit...!

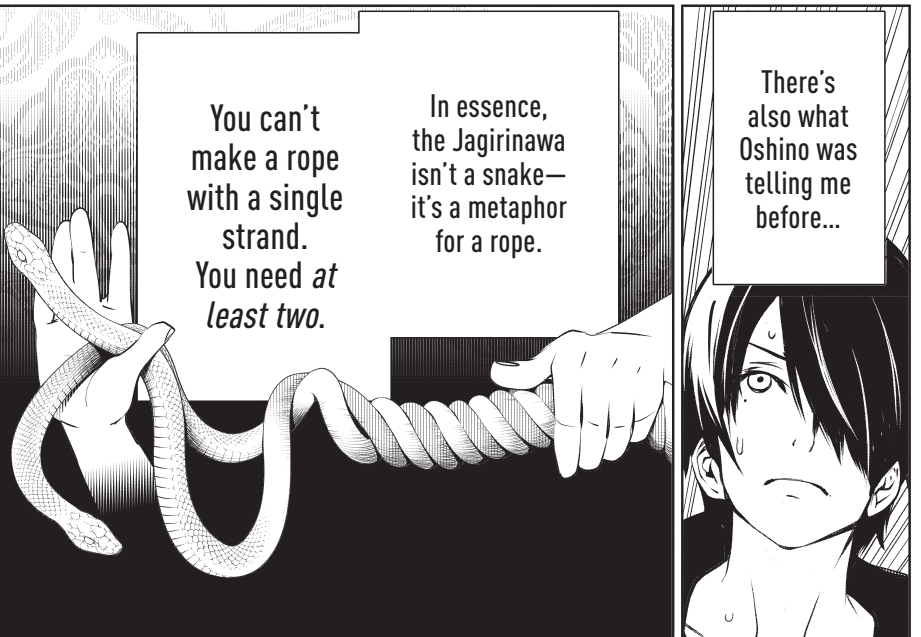
They covered *both arms and both legs.*

Like the scale markings on Sengoku's body—

It's not as if it came flying down from the sky... It has to have *crawled* along the ground before it began winding itself up her legs.

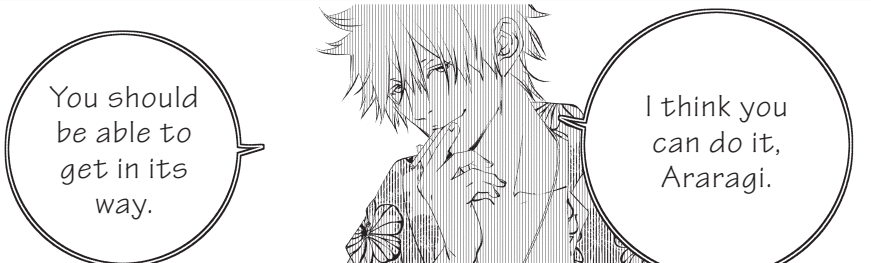
No matter how much of an aberration it is—this thing is still a "snake."

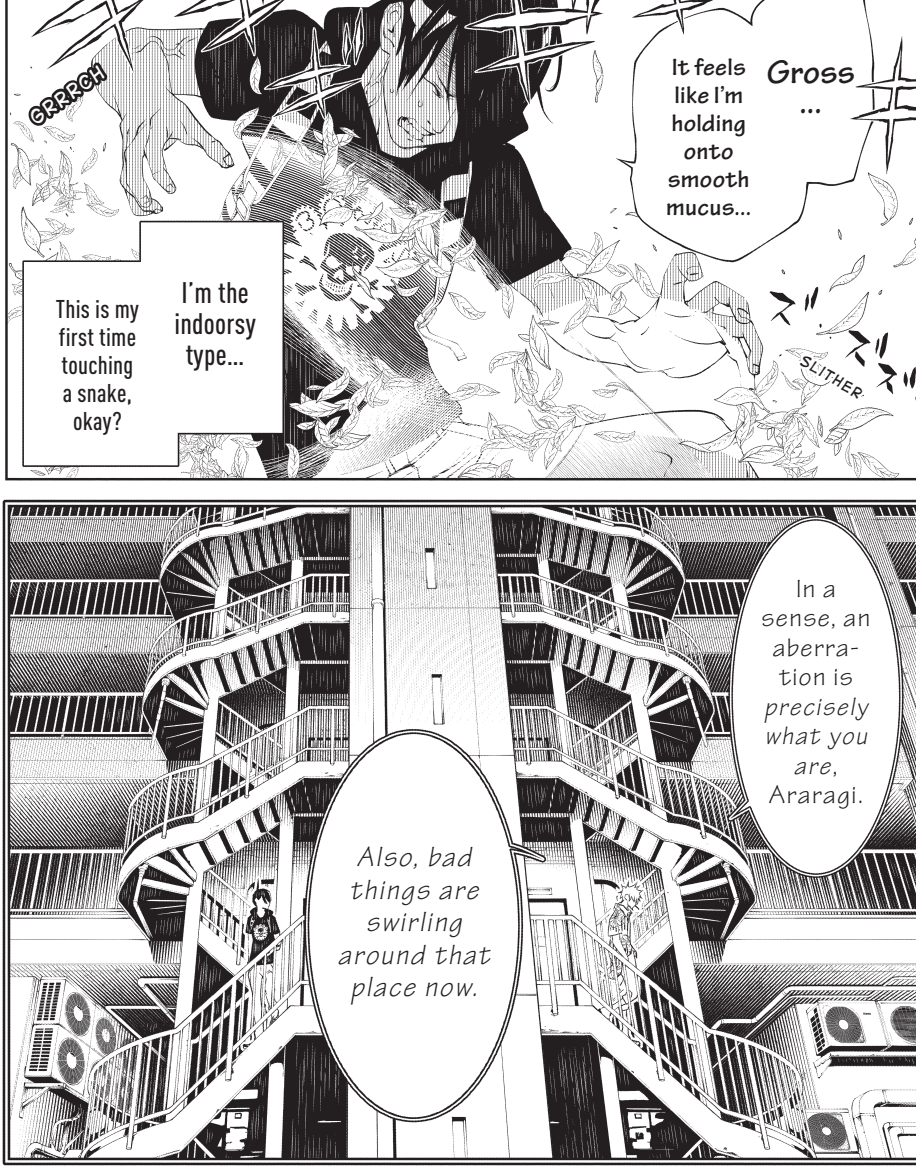

...*structurally* impossible...!!
One snake wrapping around both her arms and both her legs would be...
I needed to realize that even if I couldn't see it.
One snake: Can only wrap around one arm and one leg.
Two snakes needed to wrap around both arms and both legs.

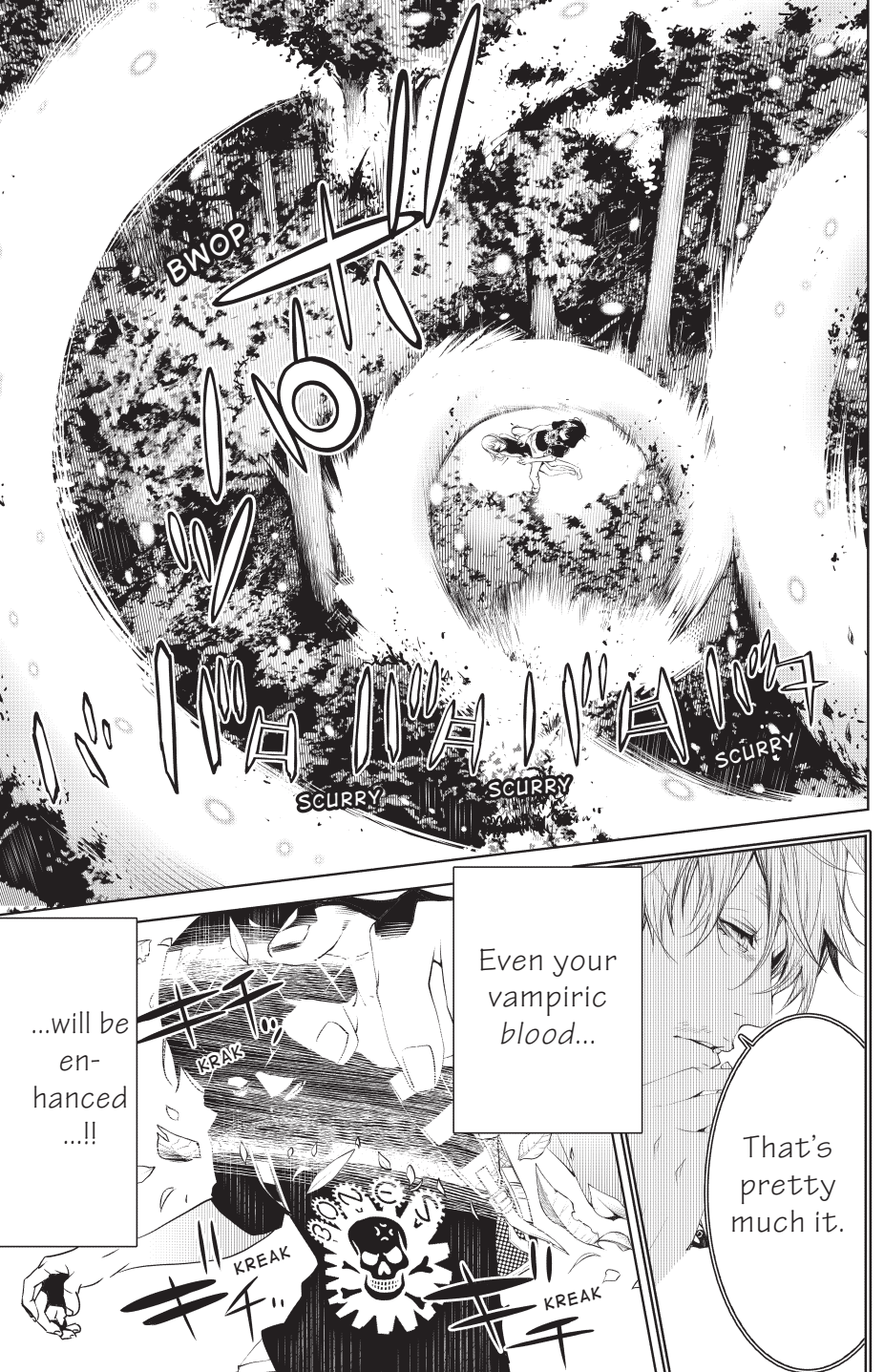

You can't make a rope with a single strand. You need *at least two*.
In essence, the Jagirinawa isn't a snake—it's a metaphor for a rope.
There's also what Oshino was telling me before...

JUMP
Gotcha!
GRAB
ZSSHH
You... Hey...!
Calm down!
Stop strug-gling!

Agh!
...It's *here*...
Urgh...
SLITHER
Well ...
I guess that goes without saying, but...
GRAB


You should be able to get in its way.
I think you can do it, Araragi.


GRRRCH
This is my first time touching a snake, okay?
I'm the indoorsy type...
It feels like I'm holding onto smooth mucus...
Gross ...
SLITHER
In a sense, an aberration is *precisely what you are*, Araragi.
Also, bad things are swirling around that place now.
The Jagirinawa has manifested itself due to the effects of these *bad things*—you can use those things in a similar way.
All you need to do is get *them* on your side.


BWOP
SCURRY
SCURRY
SCURRY
That's pretty much it.
Even your vampiric *blood*...
...will be enhanced ...!!
KREAK
KREAK
KRAK

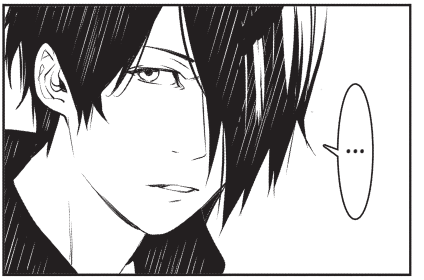
SHHNP...
PLLRCH...
Sengoku caught more than ten snakes on her own...
I'm her "big brother," right? If I can't handle something like this, then I'm—
SQUISH

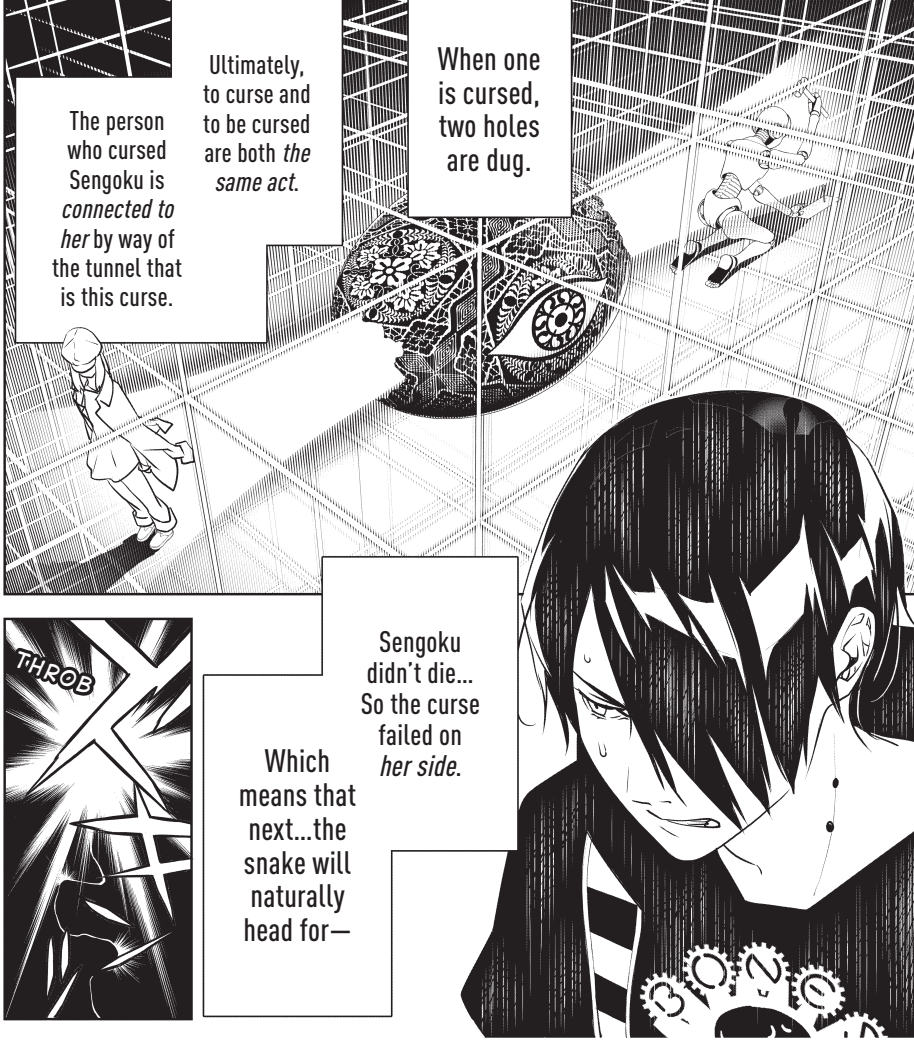
Agh—
SQUISH
GA-CHOMP
GUH... AH...!
AAH! I-IT IT HUUUURTS ...!
IT...
IT BIT ME ...?!
ROLL
ROLL
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

Urgh ...
BHAAH!
ROLL
コロ
PHEW
What happened to the snake ...?!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

No...

That's not it...!




When one is cursed, two holes are dug.
Ultimately, to curse and to be cursed are both *the same act*.
The person who cursed Sengoku is *connected to her* by way of the tunnel that is this curse.
Sengoku didn't die... So the curse failed on *her side*.
Which means that next...the snake will naturally head for—
THROB
BONE
DRIP
Ow!

The wound— it's not healing?!
No...
It's actually getting worse... It's melting.
Poison ...!!
So the poison is working faster than my body's ability to heal itself...!!
...

BOOOM

Even so...
ZHKK

BWOOF
I won't let it get to its destination!!!

WHOA!
BWIKK

Sengoku just *happened* to know me, but it's different for this other girl—she doesn't have a single way to protect herself, and I don't see how I'll be able to save her!!

The snake is heading toward the person who cursed Sengoku.

FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
BA-BA-BAM
ZSSHH

TWANG
ZZSSSHH
There.
SLITHER

POP
!!
CA-CHOMP

FWAP
BWOOMF

BRRRIP
BRRCH
BRRCH BRRCH
ZMPH

GA-GRITCH
Snake.
Sorry ...
...but you're coming with me.
PTT

So, which will happen first? Will the poison circulate through-out my body...?
Or will you run out of stamina?
It's a test of endur-ance!!
GRITCH
GRITCH
GRRRK
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD

I betrayed you.

I'm here trying to save the very person that tried to kill you.
Of all the things I could be doing...
It's ...
It's so... powerful, but...
BUSHT
DRIP
GRRK
I think I'll be fine...!!
If this is all it's got...
Gah ...
DZSH
ZSH
Graah ...!
SHAKE
SHAKE

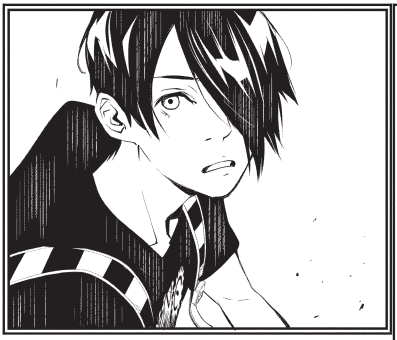
SPPT
Whoa
!
Huh
?!
Wha
...?
?!
?!
KRASH
ZSSHH

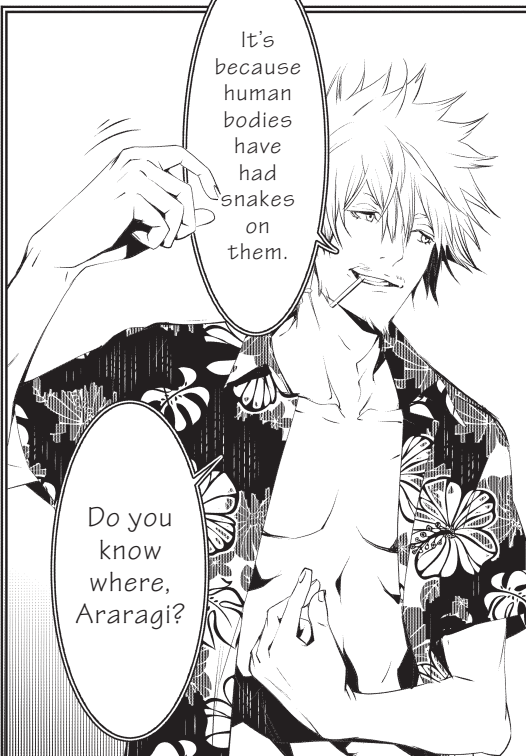
JOLT
ZMMP
Gah ...!
BSSSHT
SPLAT
SPLAT
BLUHP

Graagh!
Gah ...!
Aagh!
Eugh!
SHHK
SHHK
SHHK
SHHK
SHHK
SHHK
SHHK
SHHK
PLUP
GRSST

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
...And it's not just one of them...
There's a lot of them ...?!
Are these a snake's fangs ...?
No ...!!
It's... something sharper... the kind of sharpness you only get with metal...
Like a blade—
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE!
...
No, wait... Is this...?
Ha haa.
Well, I don't think this has anything to do with the problem you're dealing with now, but...

There is one more thing.
One more reason why people see snakes as holy.




It's because human bodies have had snakes on them.
Do you know where, Araragi?

And don't even think about making a dirty joke and saying between our legs.
That wouldn't apply to half the population, anyway.
HURK
キリ

A rope that connects this world to the next.
We all come into this world attached to one, right?
It's when we're born.
The thought was that snakes...
BRSSH
...have the power to draw our souls into this world.
SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH

An aberration that draws souls...

...into this world from the great beyond.

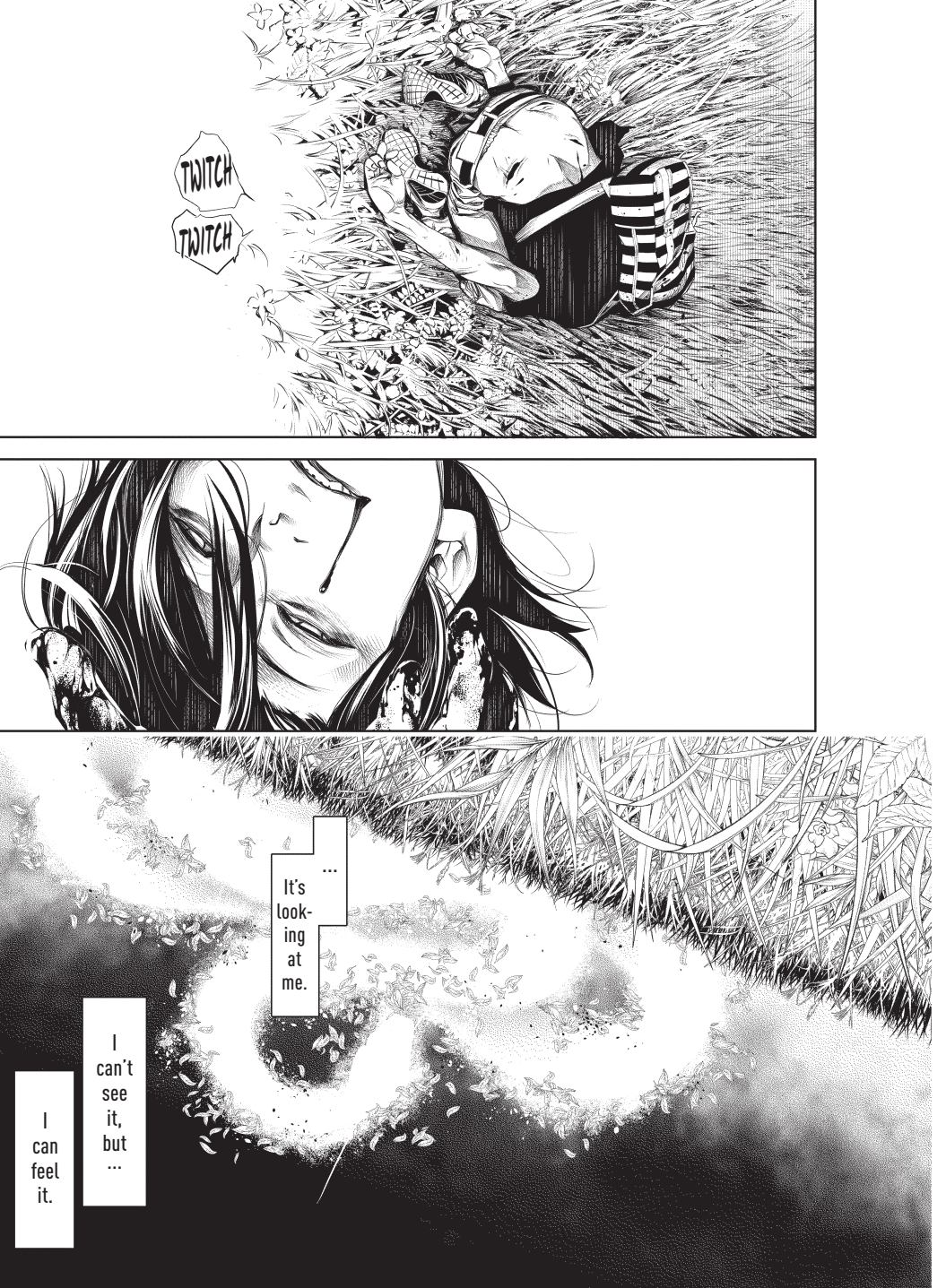
You should also keep that in mind before you act, Araragi.
...gathered at that shrine right now.
What's more, there're all those bad things...
Haah ...
Haah ...
ZSSHH
ZSSHH
ZSSHH
Those snakes stand as the greatest rivals of gods in religions around the world, and that's not just for show.
Haah ...
Haah ...
Haah ...
Snakes are scary.

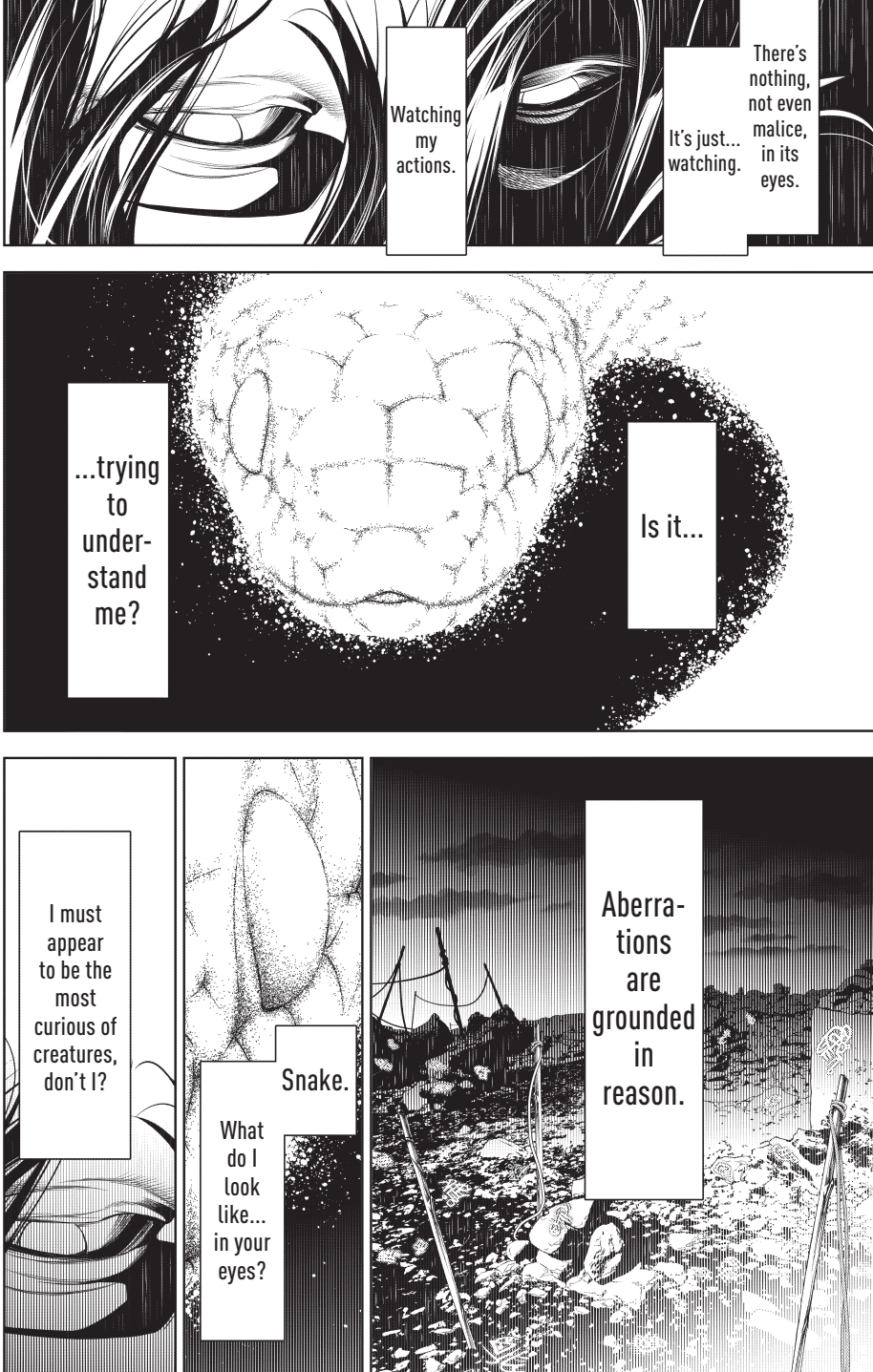
Oshino said...
...that I need to take the *bad things* gathered around this shrine...and get them on my side.
Haah...
Haah...
Haah...
STAGGER
Arg!
BOOM

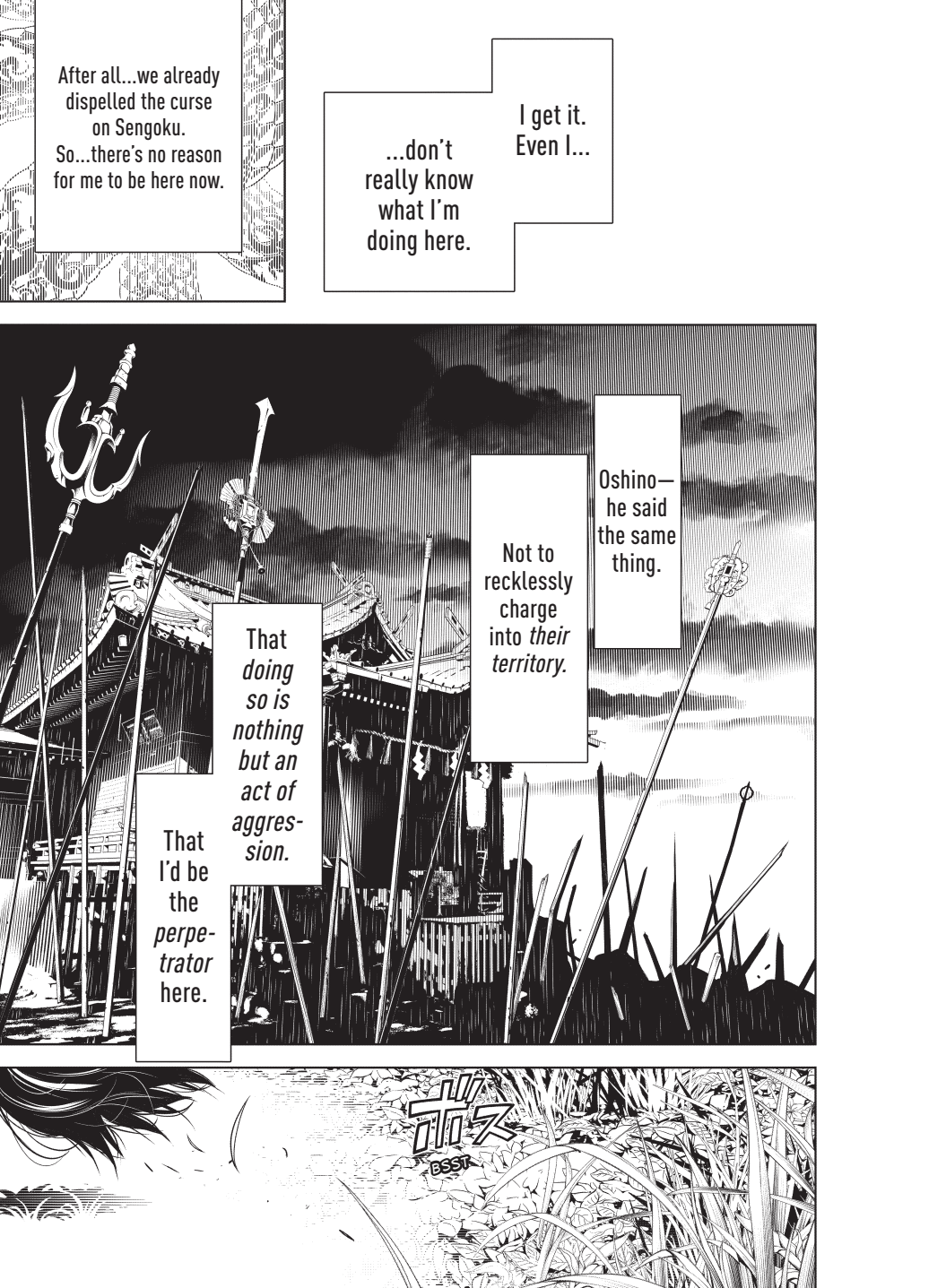
But what the hell is this crap?! These assholes totally have it out for me!!
THWAK
ZWOOSH
SHNK
Grah!
Urgh!
SHNK
Ghht!
SHNK
Gah!
SHNK

Kuh
—
Haakh
!
...You all should know something, though ...
I let you stab me just now.
GRIP
I did that so I could get you jerks in one place even if I can't see you!!
SHLRRK

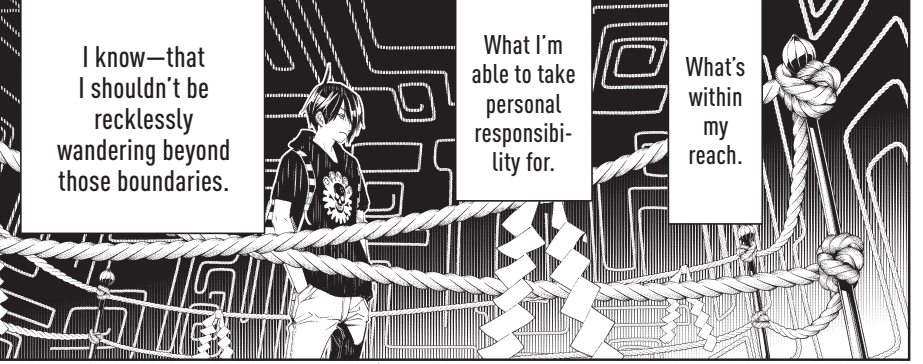
TWIRRRL
THWOPPP
KA-KLOP
KA-KLOP
SWATCH
SPLECH
SPLECH
...


TWITCH
TWITCH
...
It's looking at me.
I can't see it, but ...
I can feel it.


There's nothing, not even malice, in its eyes.
It's just... watching.
Watching my actions.
Is it...
...trying to understand me?
Aberrations are grounded in reason.
Snake.
What do I look like... in your eyes?
I must appear to be the most curious of creatures, don't I?


After all...we already dispelled the curse on Sengoku. So...there's no reason for me to be here now.
I get it. Even I...
...don't really know what I'm doing here.
Oshino—he said the same thing.
Not to recklessly charge into *their territory.*
That *doing so is nothing but an act of aggression.*
That I'd be the *perpetrator* here.
ゴゴゴ
BSST

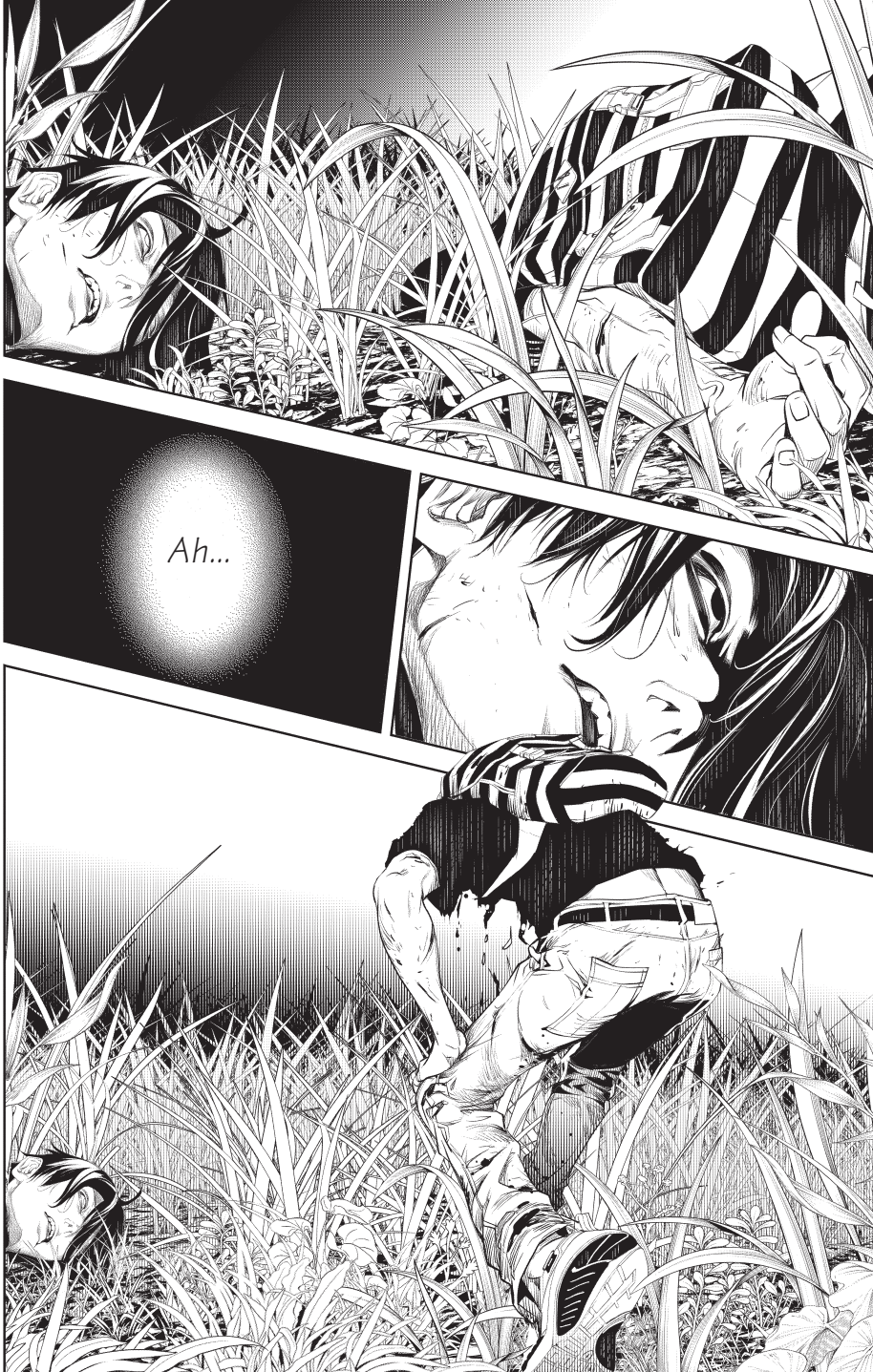
It really is irresponsible to be kind to everyone.
I know.
It feels so pointless to be indebted to him.
I know that.
You really do save everyone you possibly can, don't you?
Yeah, yeah—
I get it already.
There's a wall of irresponsibility, you see.



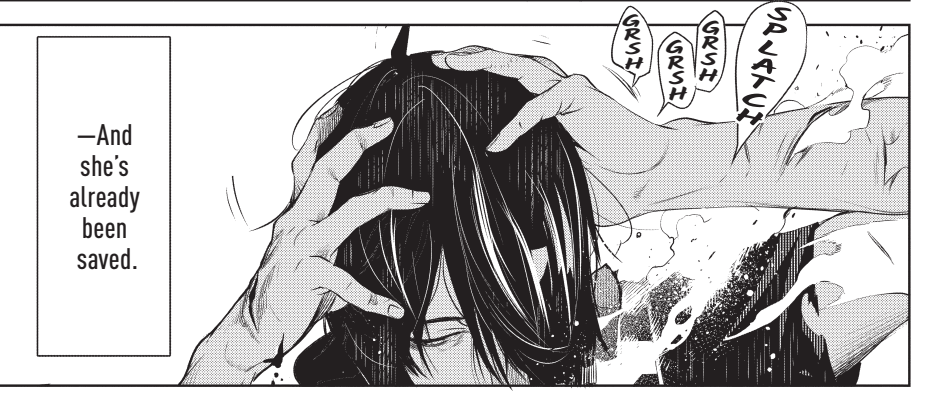
That in the end, *it's not for anyone's sake*.

I know all of that.

That saving someone when it's *not for their sake*... is nothing more than *poison*.


Ah...

That's easily my bound-aries.
Yeah— that's right.
Nadeko Sengoku— is my little sister's friend.


—And she's already been saved.
GRSH
GRSH
GRSH
SPLATCH

KRAK

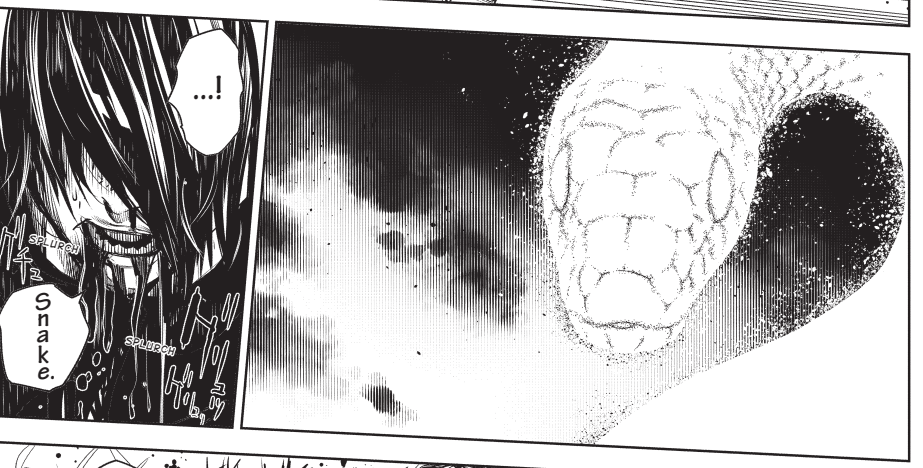
ZSH
KRIK
KRIK
ZSSHH
ZMP

TWING

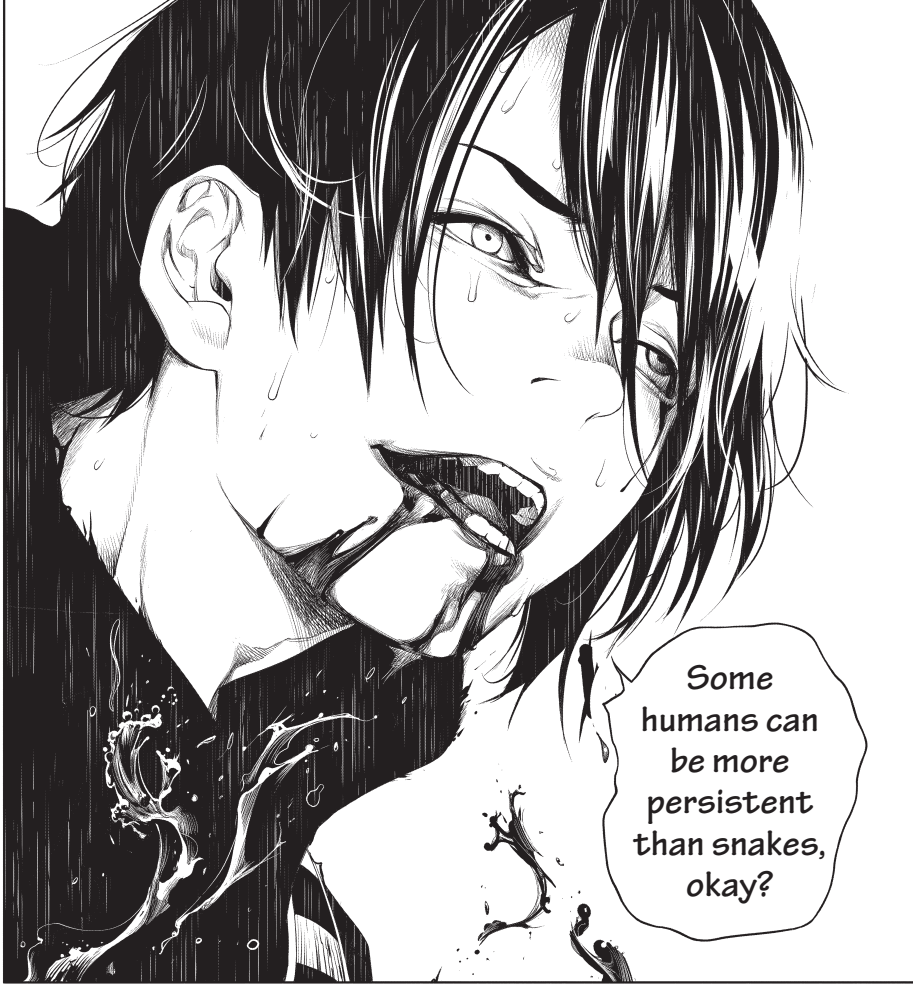
But even then —
Nadeko Sengoku may be within *my boundaries*...
...but I'd forgotten all about her until just now.
That doesn't make her any different from a complete stranger, does it?

It's ground-ed in reason.
Then it's fine.
I saved Nadeko Sengoku, who's practically a complete stranger to me.
So saving Nadeko Sengoku's friend, an actual complete stranger...
...should be totally fine!!

THUD


...!
SPLURCH
Snake.
SPLURCH

SPLAT
SPLAT
Like you're confounded by what you see.
ZAKK
Don't give me that look...



"In for a penny, in for a pound," right?

Either way...

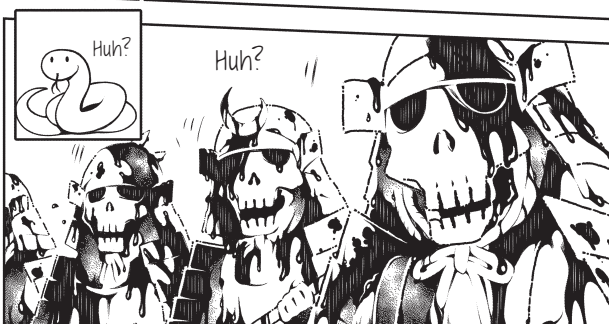
People will go and get saved on their own.

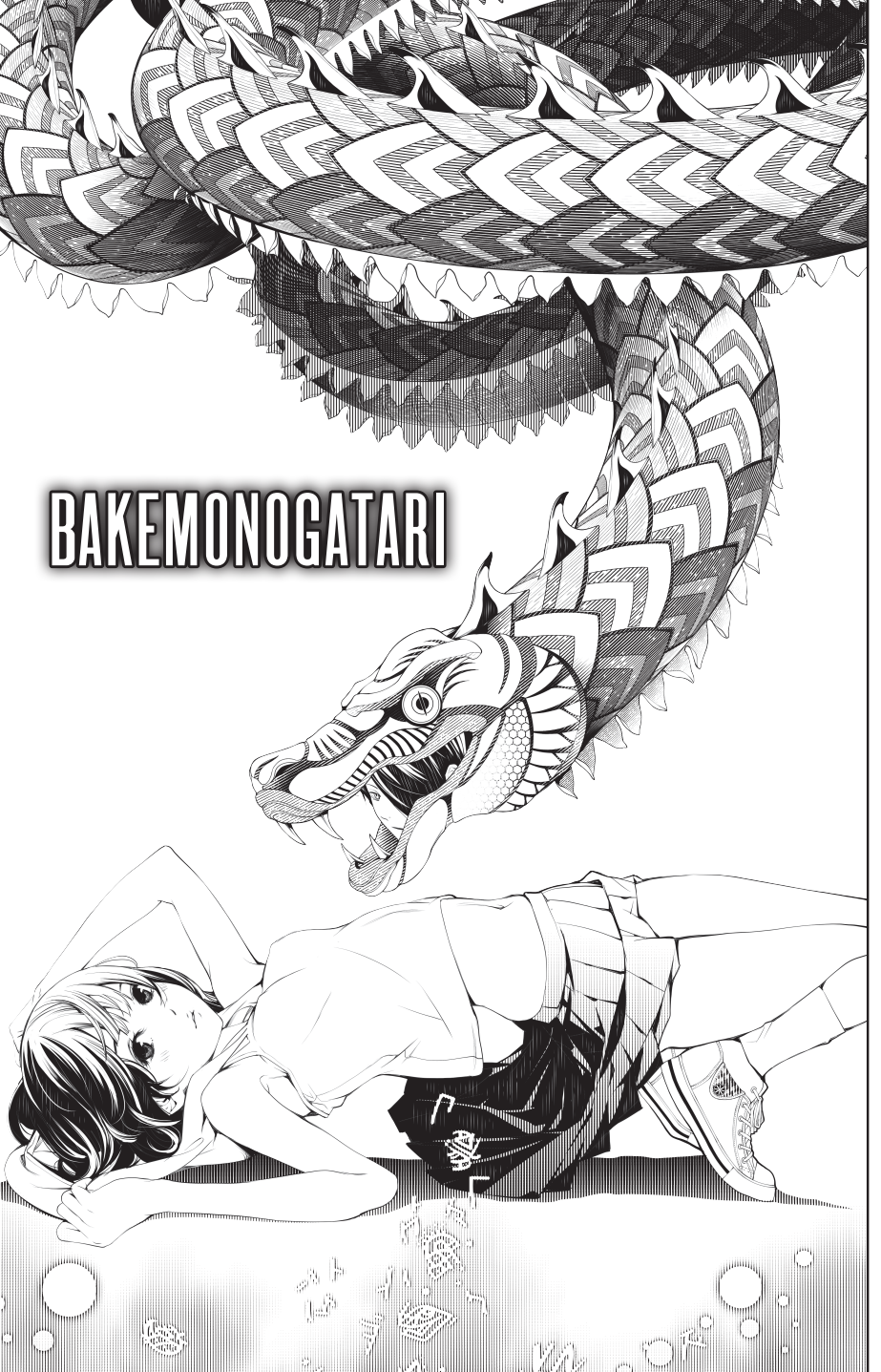
If this was never for anyone's sake to begin with,

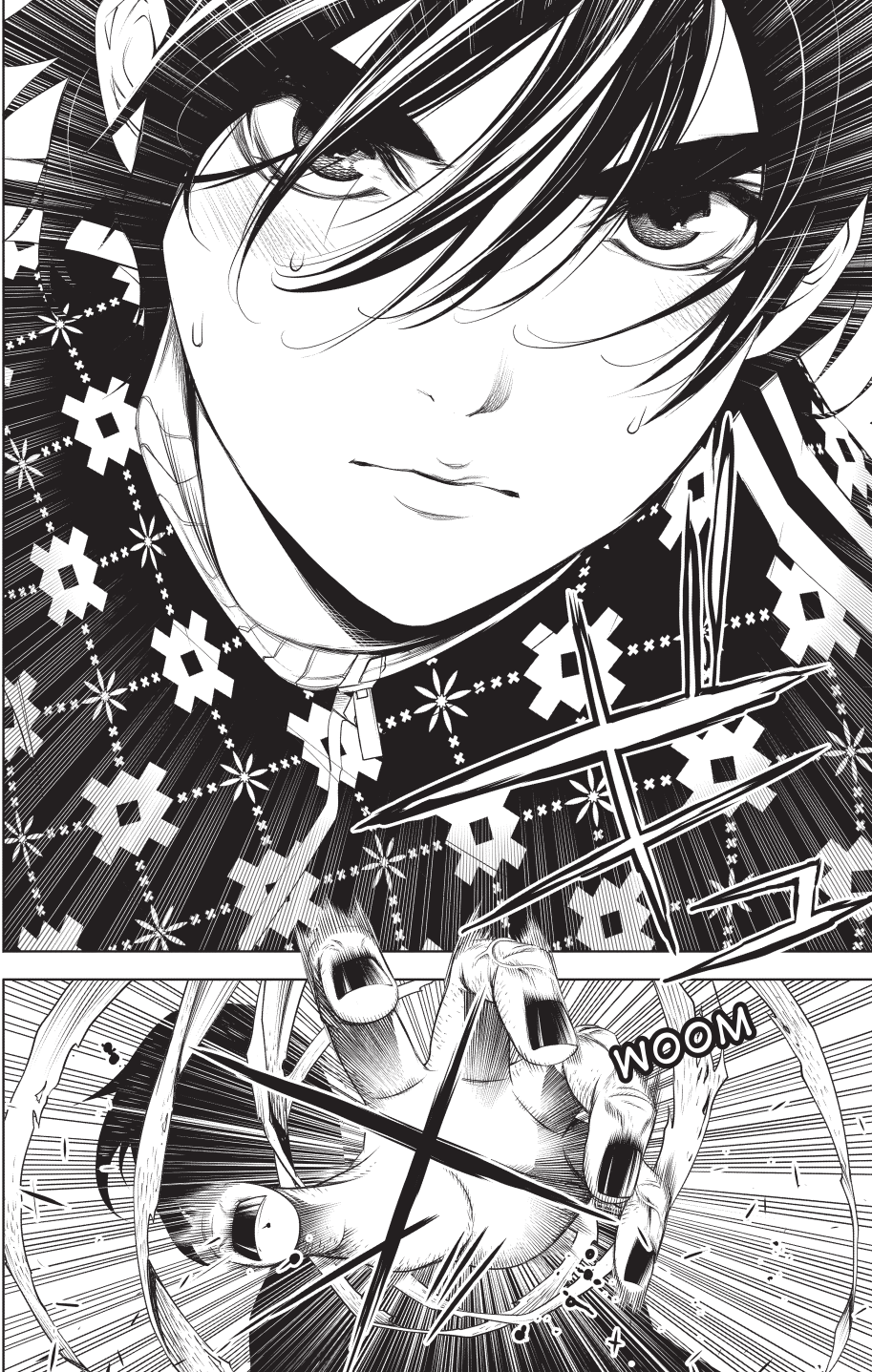
then what's so wrong about going and saving someone for my own sake?

MY SENIOR ARARAGI !!
BOOM
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
But—the snake can poison her...!! What should we do? How do we fight...?
Right...! The power of Kanbaru's "hand" will be a big help!!
Kan-baru ?!
MY DEAR SENIOR ARA-RAGI.

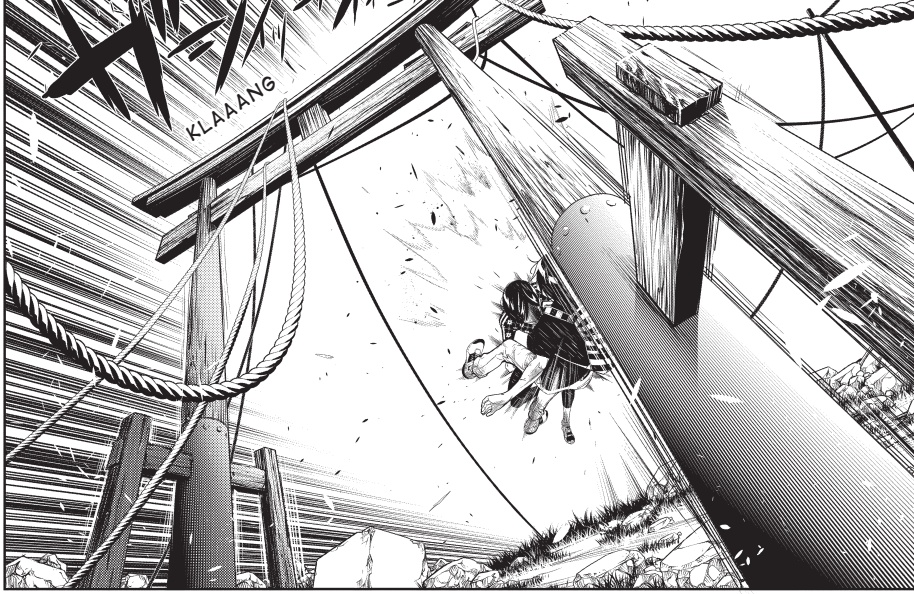
One of my molars came out of my nose.

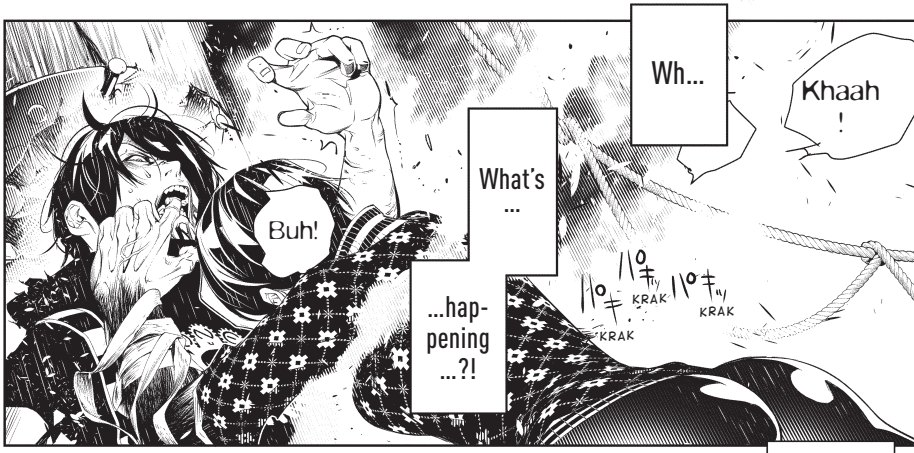



BAKEMONOGATARI

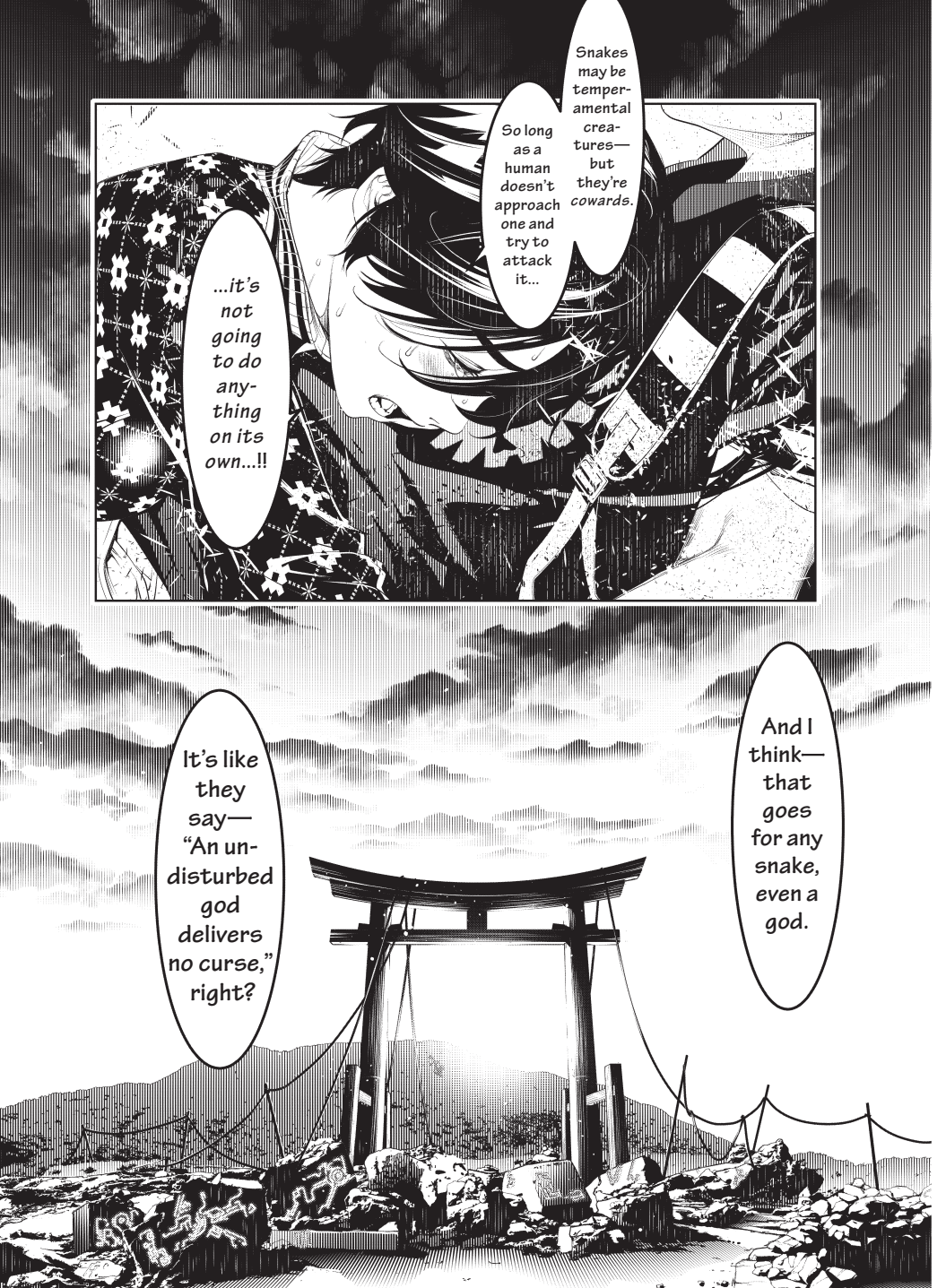

WOOM

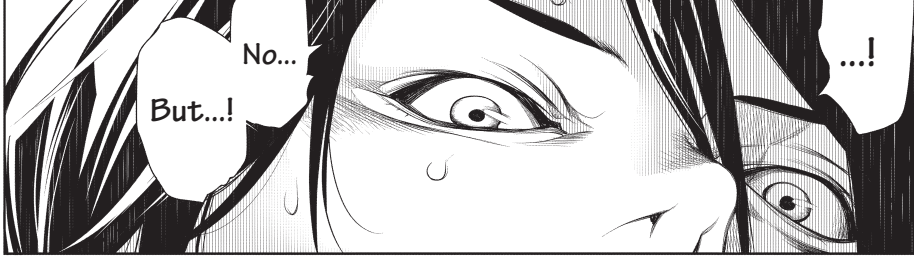
OOAHH!
GRUNCH
IBA-KRAK!
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

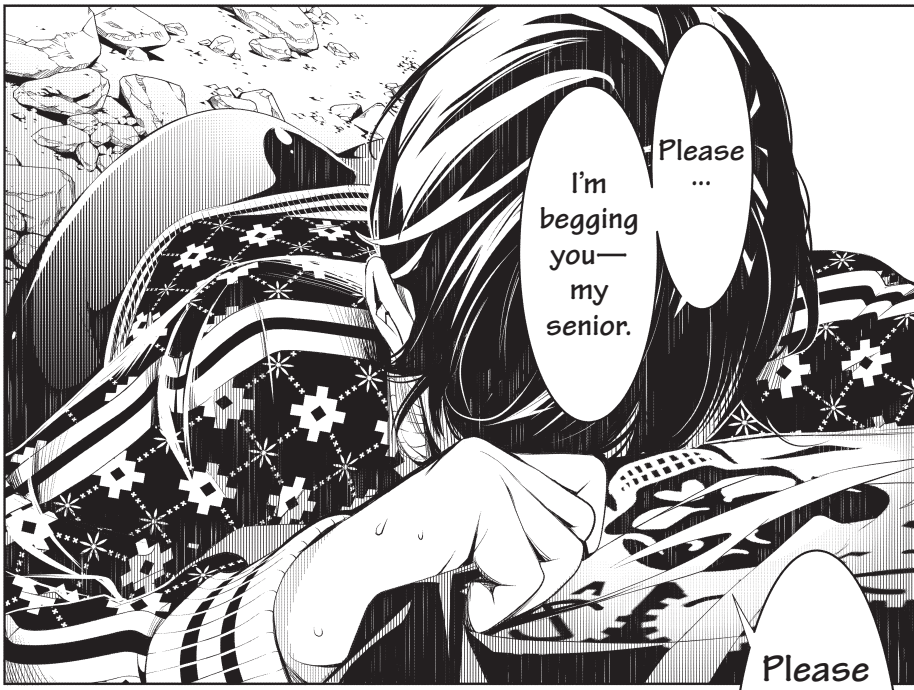

KLAAANG


Wh...
Khaah!
What's...
Buh!
...happening...?!
110キロ KRAK
110キロ KRAK
110キロ KRAK

My senior Araragi.
Are the *bad things* here... having some sort of negative effect on Kanbaru through her hand...?!
—Don't tell me...


Snakes may be temperamental creatures—but they're cowards.
So long as a human doesn't approach one and try to attack it...
...it's not going to do anything on its own...!!
And I think—that goes for any snake, even a god.
It's like they say—"An undisturbed god delivers no curse," right?


No...
But...!
...!


Please ...
I'm begging you— my senior.

Please don't try to rescue the wrong person ...!!

Huh?
What about the ritual to lift my curse —?!
What?! Big Brother Koyomi ?!
!!
... Ngh.
TWITCH
Oh.

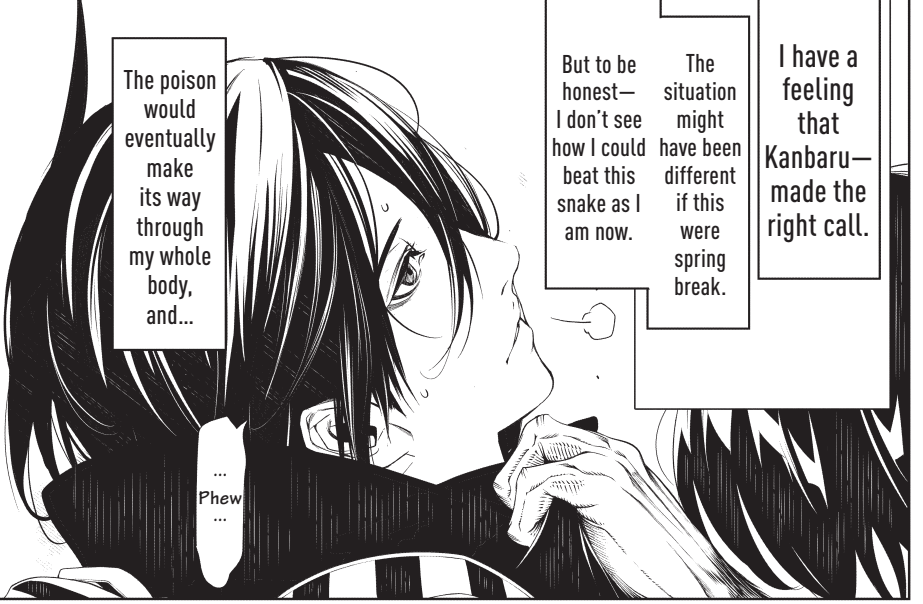
The marks.
They're gone...
This pattern has been deleted.
OK
Delete
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIPP

ZSSHH

Heh!

Ha haha!

Thank you, Big Brother Koyomi ...!!
Thank you...
For saving me.
She ...
... isn't suffering now.
She's no longer in pain.
She can...
...smile now.


I have a feeling that Kanbaru—made the right call.
The situation might have been different if this were spring break.
But to be honest—I don't see how I could beat this snake as I am now.
The poison would eventually make its way through my whole body, and...
... Phew ...

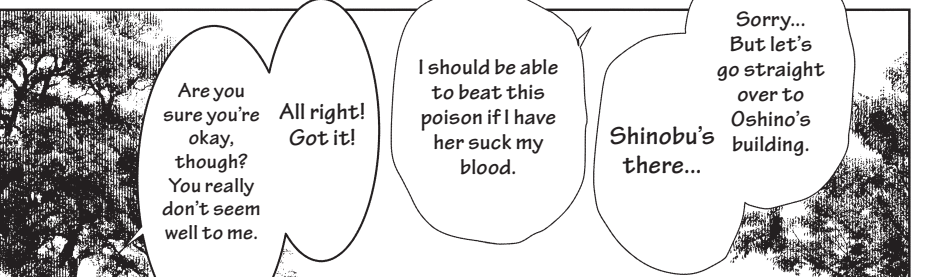
Sorry, Kanbaru.
I forced you into a terrible role.
I'm really sorry.

I'm sorry...
...whoever it was that sent this snake—wherever you are.

I really am power-less.
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHRRR
CHRR

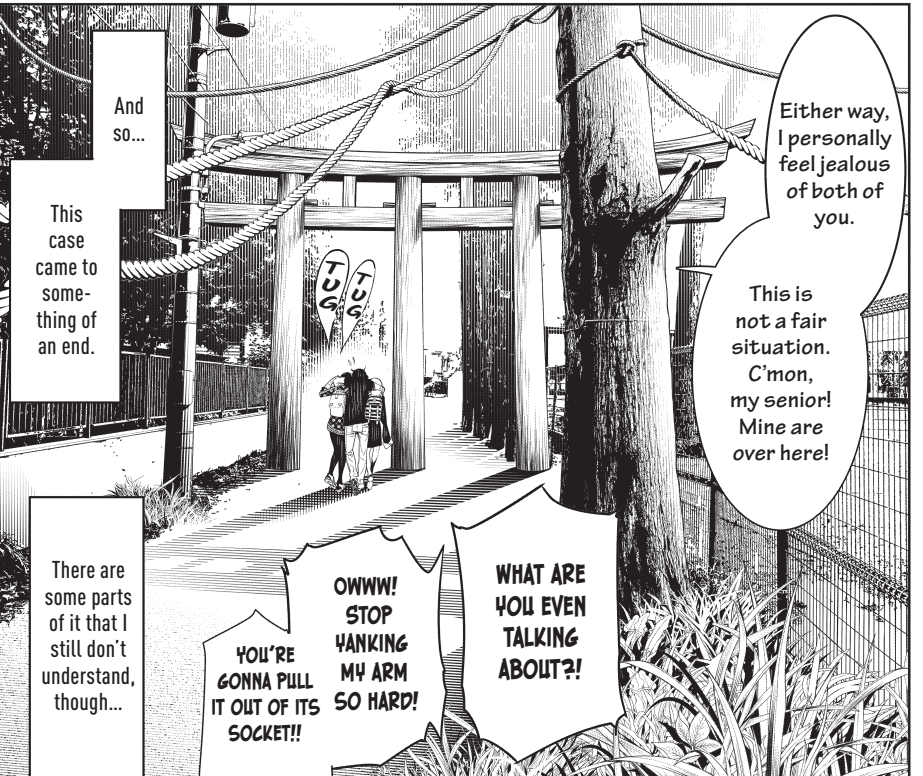
Can you walk, my senior Araragi?
Yeah...
Sorry...
Please don't apologize. It puts me in an awkward position.
I was so desperate to stop you that I also used up all my strength...

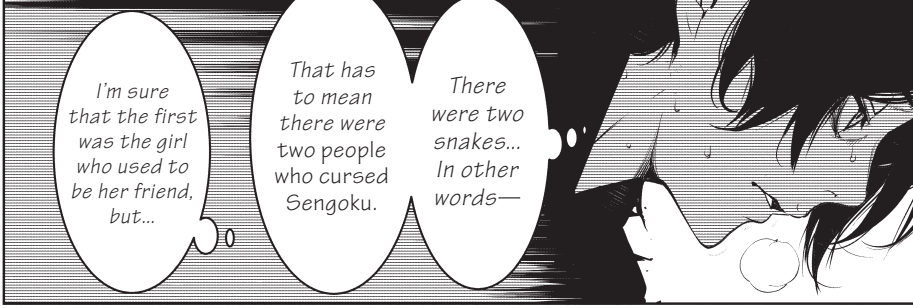
It seems that the snake's poison far outpaced my body's ability to heal itself.
I guess a half-assed aberration like me really doesn't have any chance of defeating an actual aberration.
So...
So close...
Haah...!
Haah...!
Haah...!


Sorry... But let's go straight over to Oshino's building.
Shinobu's there...
I should be able to beat this poison if I have her suck my blood.
All right! Got it!
Are you sure you're okay, though? You really don't seem well to me.

SQUISH
SQUISH
I don't have any feeling in them, though.
Yeah. Seems like I can still move my arms somehow.
SWEAT
SWEAT
SWEAT
SQUISH
SQUISH
The pain seems to be fading away from my fingers... I'm really feeling it in my legs, though...
Phew... For some reason, I feel better when I'm moving my fingers around...
Mmh!
KWIK
KWIK
KWIK
SQUAAASH

I'm...okay... It's not like... it's on purpose...
I...
Hunh?
If you say no, I'll show no mercy. I don't even care if he's my senior!
What do you want to do?
Do we consider this his reward for a job well done, or no?
I-If it helps him feel better in any way... I'd like to help him, after all...
SQU-ISH
SQU-ISH

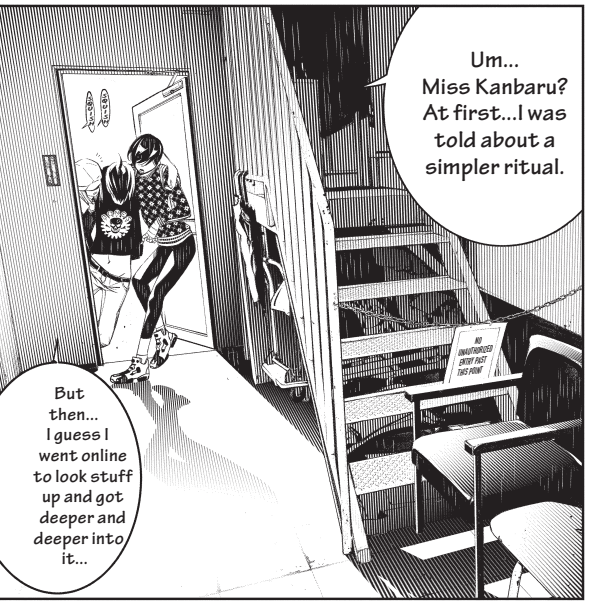

And so...
This case came to some-thing of an end.
There are some parts of it that I still don't understand, though...
TUG
TUG
Either way, I personally feel jealous of both of you.
This is not a fair situation. C'mon, my senior! Mine are over here!
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT?!
OWWW! STOP YANKING MY ARM SO HARD!
YOU'RE GONNA PULL IT OUT OF ITS SOCKET!!


There were two snakes... In other words—
That has to mean there were two people who cursed Sengoku.
I'm sure that the first was the girl who used to be her friend, but...

Speculating here would be as useless as shoes on a snake.

If there is someone else—
To Nadeko Sengoku
It could be the boy Sengoku said she rejected...

We're here, my senior Araragi. It's amazing what taxis can do.
SQUISH
SQUISH


Um... Miss Kanbaru? At first...I was told about a simpler ritual.
But then... I guess I went online to look stuff up and got deeper and deeper into it...
NO UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY PAST THIS POINT

...I'm amazed that what was basically child's play could take you out like this...
Still... Considering this was just an occult fad that was making the rounds at some school...

Kaiki.
—I think he said his name... was Mister Kaiki...

What do you mean, you were told?
Oh... There's a man who specializes in that kind of thing.
Um... What was his name again ...?
SQUISH
SQUISH
WARM
WARM

!!
KRIK

JOLT
Mgh.
...

眼
EYES
!!
!!

TWIRL
SPLATTER
SPLAT
CHOMP
STAIRS
PLAT
PLAT
PLAT
DRAAAAG

語 *gatari*

物 *mono*

8

NADEKOsnake

化 *bake*

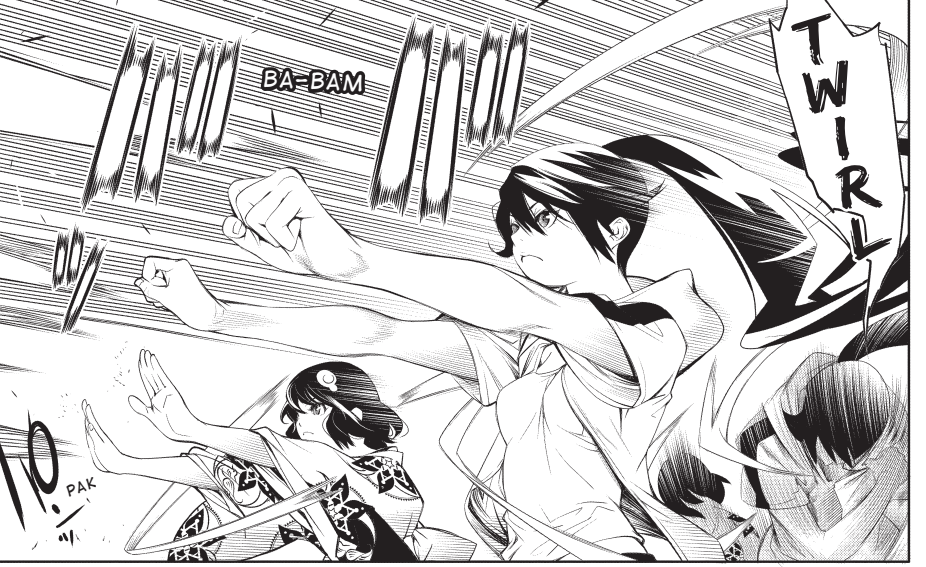
化 *bake*

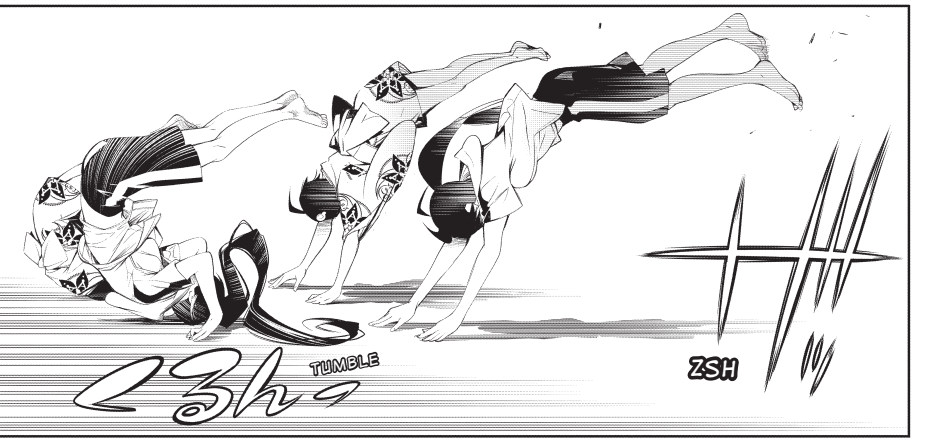
物 *mono*

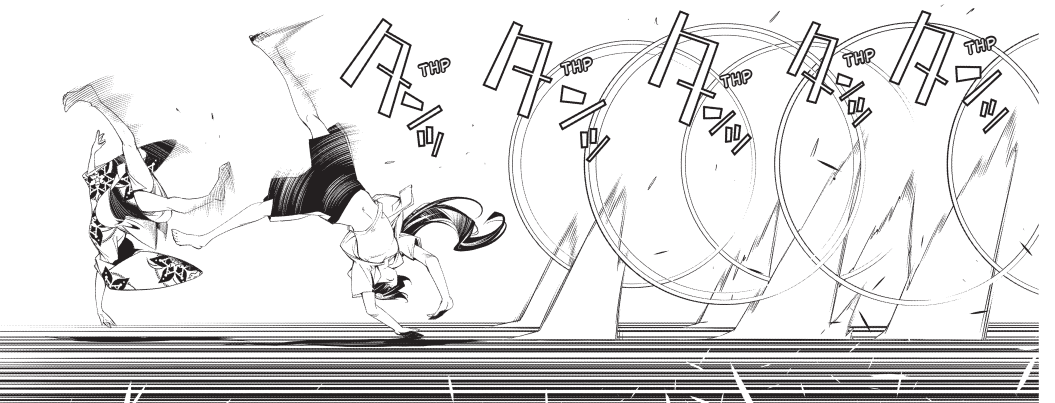
NADEKOsnake

8

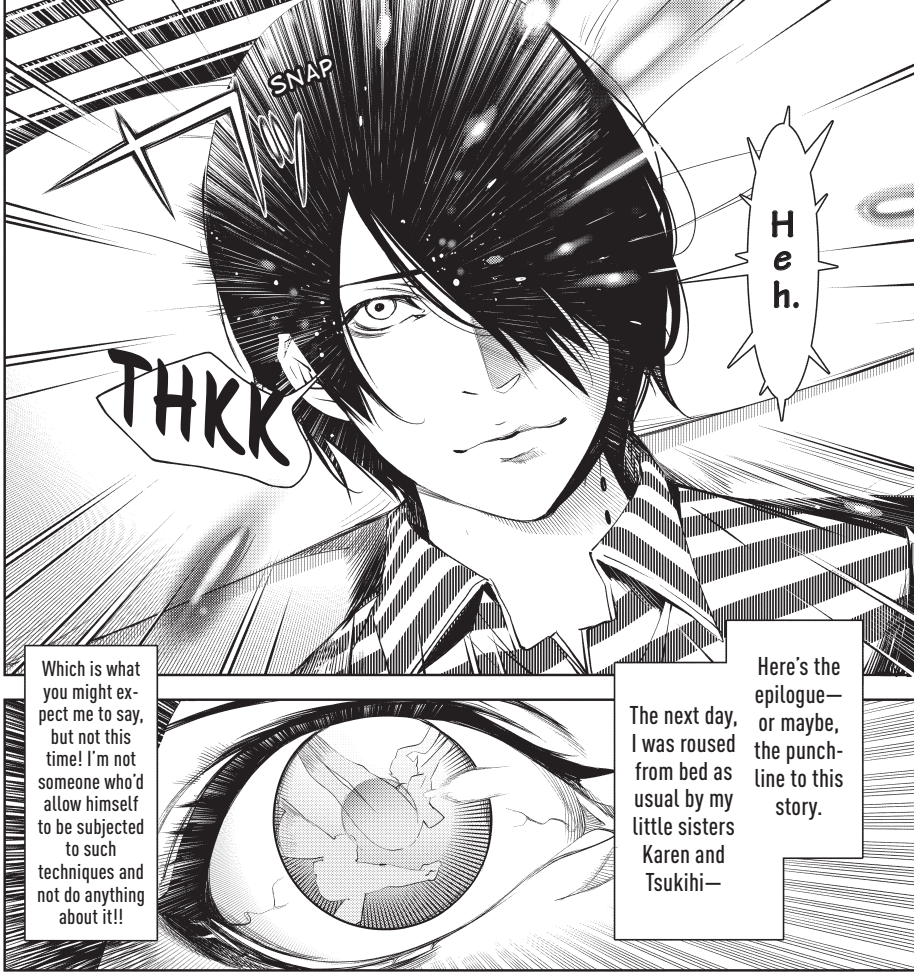
語 *gatari*


BA-BAM
TWIRL
PAK


TUMBLE
ZSH


THP
THP
THP
THP
THP

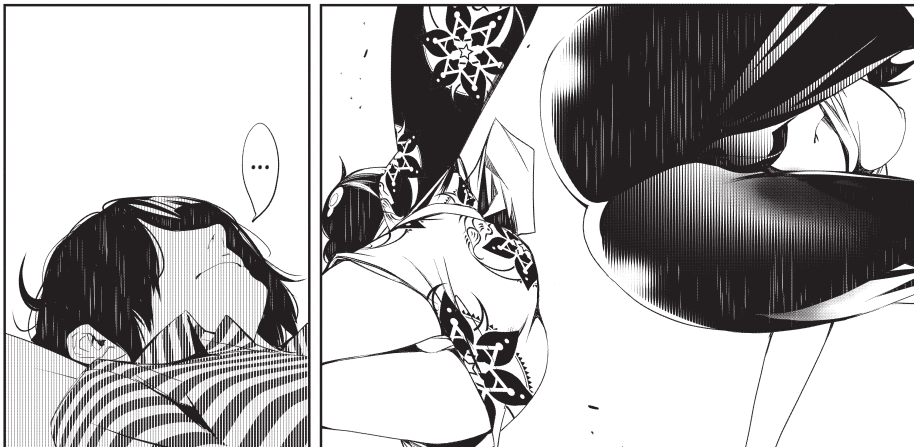
WAKE UP, KOYO-MIIII !!



Which is what you might expect me to say, but not this time! I'm not someone who'd allow himself to be subjected to such techniques and not do anything about it!!

The next day, I was roused from bed as usual by my little sisters Karen and Tsukihi—

Here's the epilogue—or maybe, the punchline to this story.



AH!
THWOMP
SLIDE
BA-BAM
BA-BAM
BA-BA-BAM
BA-BAM
OHM* PALM !!!
SHAKK
SHAKK
SHAKK
SHAKK
SHAKK
SHAKK
SHAKK
SHAKK
*The large insect-like creatures from Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind.
My butt kinda hurts...
WHOOPS, I FELL RIGHT ON YOUR FACE! ARE YOU OKAY, KOYOMI?
FSSSHHH
Heh heh.
Then again, choosing not to avoid this is a way of showing an older brother's kindness.

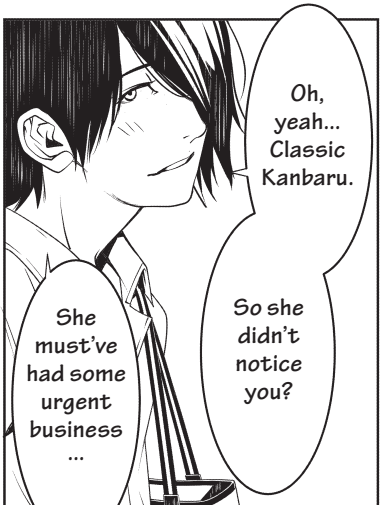
Tuesday, June 13th. 6:30 PM.
A day that would surely become one...
...worth remembering.
Oh!
Big Brother Koyomi!

...Big Brother Koyomi.
I was waiting for you...
SHF
SHF
What're you doing here?
Sen-goku?!
U-Um ...
Well ...
O-Oh, just give me five seconds ...
Thank goodness he's here...
はぁ
SIGH

Oh.
Don't tell me you were waiting here since middle school got out.
What? No, that's not it.
I didn't go to school today. I felt kind of sleepy.
...
That line on its own makes her sound like...
...she's the carefree princess of some tropical island.
Sorry, I was super busy preparing for the cultural festival this weekend.
Um... So wait... Doesn't that mean I made you wait for more than two hours?
N-No...
I started waiting at around two, so it's been more than four hours...
WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?!

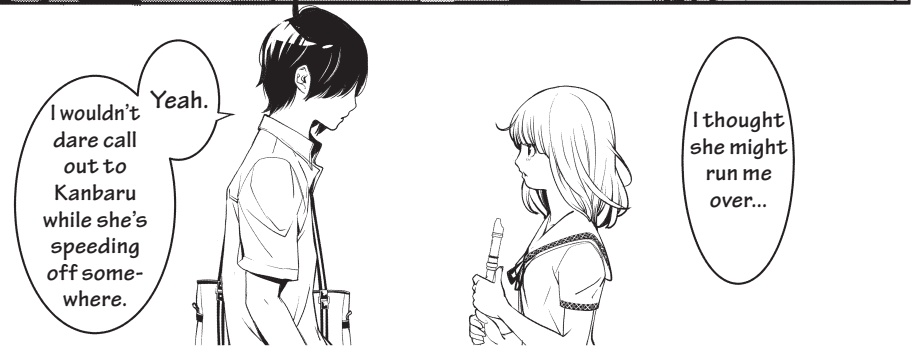
Um... Well!
I-I just felt like... I had to give you my proper thanks!
I wanted to so much... that I could hardly contain myself...
...
I'm sorry for being stupid...
...That's the first time I've gotten an apology like that!
Well, I mean ...
It's not like... I'm mad or anything...
In that case, you should be thanking Kanbaru more than anyone.
There aren't many people like her out there.
Y... Yes...
I thought so, too, so I tried to talk to her, but...

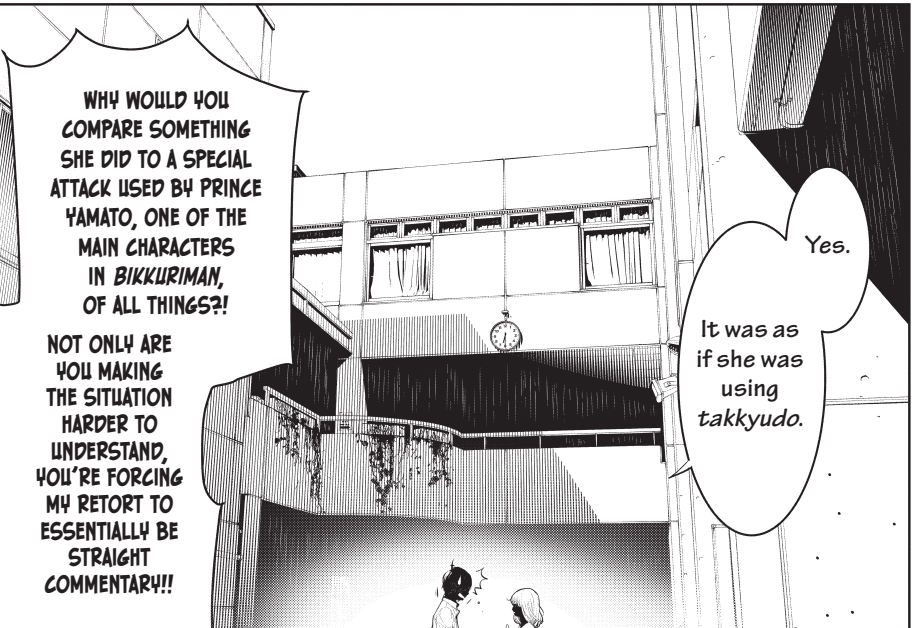
30 minutes ago
BOOM
PTT


Oh, yeah... Classic Kanbaru.
So she didn't notice you?
She must've had some urgent business ...

GWOOSH
TWING

I'm sure she had some kind of terribly fantastic reason, of course—like needing to binge on a mountain of BL comics she splurged on yesterday because she can't hold back her love for every pairing under the sun...


I wouldn't dare call out to Kanbaru while she's speeding off somewhere.
Yeah.
I thought she might run me over...


WHY WOULD YOU COMPARE SOMETHING SHE DID TO A SPECIAL ATTACK USED BY PRINCE YAMATO, ONE OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN *BIKKURIMAN*, OF ALL THINGS?!
NOT ONLY ARE YOU MAKING THE SITUATION HARDER TO UNDERSTAND, YOU'RE FORCING MY RETORT TO ESSENTIALLY BE STRAIGHT COMMENTARY!!
Yes.
It was as if she was using *takkyudo*.

Still... You know a lot about *Bikkuriman*.

Hmph. Really? It appears as though she underestimated my abilities as the designated quipper here...

I didn't think you'd get it.

Yes...

SHOCK

I saw it online.

Ah, I see...

Even so, *takkyudo* is a tough one.

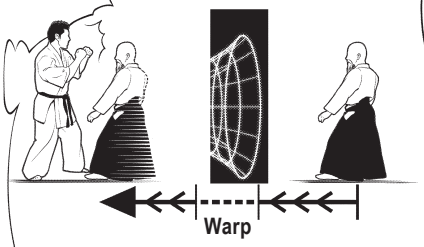
You could have at least compared it to point stepping.

DON'T LUMP TOGETHER ONE OF THE MOST CLOSELY GUARDED SECRETS IN ALL OF MARTIAL ARTS AND A BASIC ART TECHNIQUE!!

NOT ONE BIT!

[Point Stepping]

A method of stepping that makes it impossible to read one's motion. A technique that allows you to move from one point to another, closing a long distance.

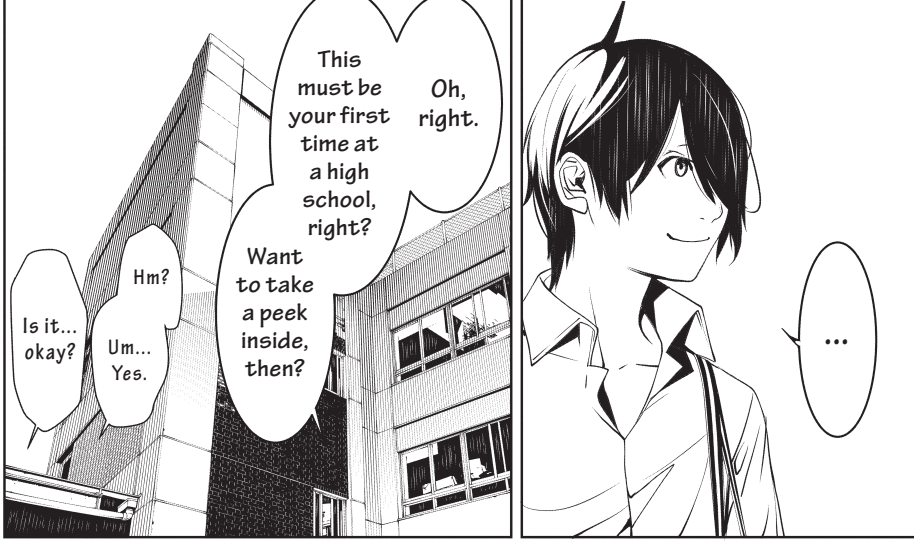


Point stepping...?

Oh, isn't that where you draw things bigger when they're close to you and smaller when they're far away?

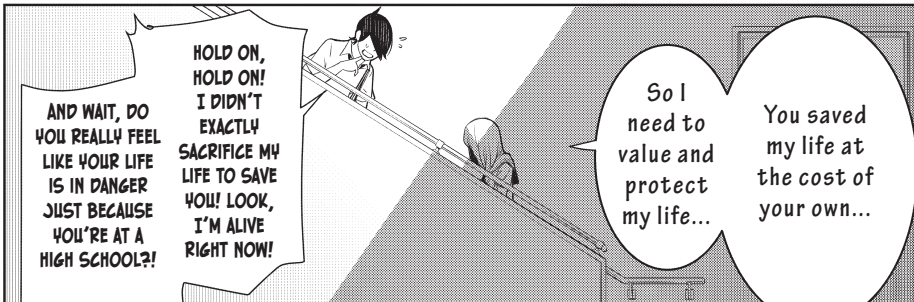
Point Perspective

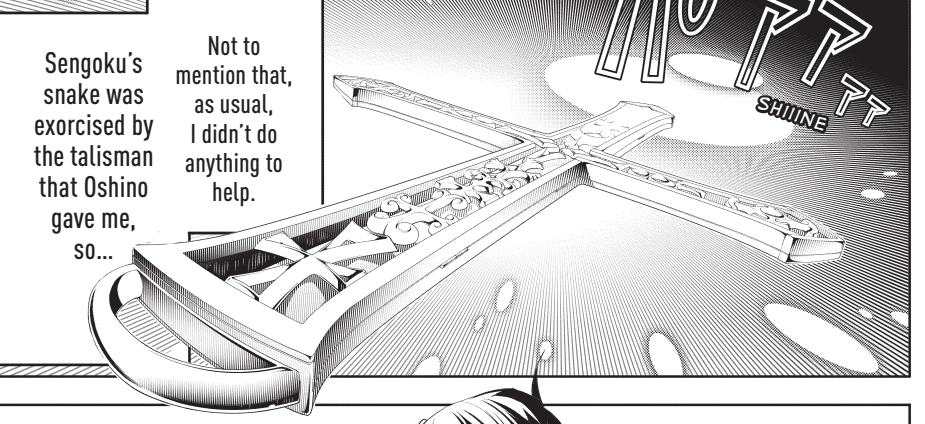
...Did I make her cry...?
Ack.
SPIN
?!!
BIG BROTHER KOYOMI,
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A FUNNY GUY.


This must be your first time at a high school, right?
Oh, right.
Want to take a peek inside, then?
Hm?
Um... Yes.
Is it... okay?
...

And to blow it with all my strength if I feel like I'm in danger.
Could this teacher have been talking about a safety whistle...?
O—
Oh...

By the way...
What's with that recorder?
Hm?
My teacher said... to never let go of it whenever I go somewhere dangerous...
WHAT KIND OF TEACHER IS THAT?!


You saved my life at the cost of your own...
So I need to value and protect my life...
HOLD ON, HOLD ON! I DIDN'T EXACTLY SACRIFICE MY LIFE TO SAVE YOU! LOOK, I'M ALIVE RIGHT NOW!
AND WAIT, DO YOU REALLY FEEL LIKE YOUR LIFE IS IN DANGER JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE AT A HIGH SCHOOL?!

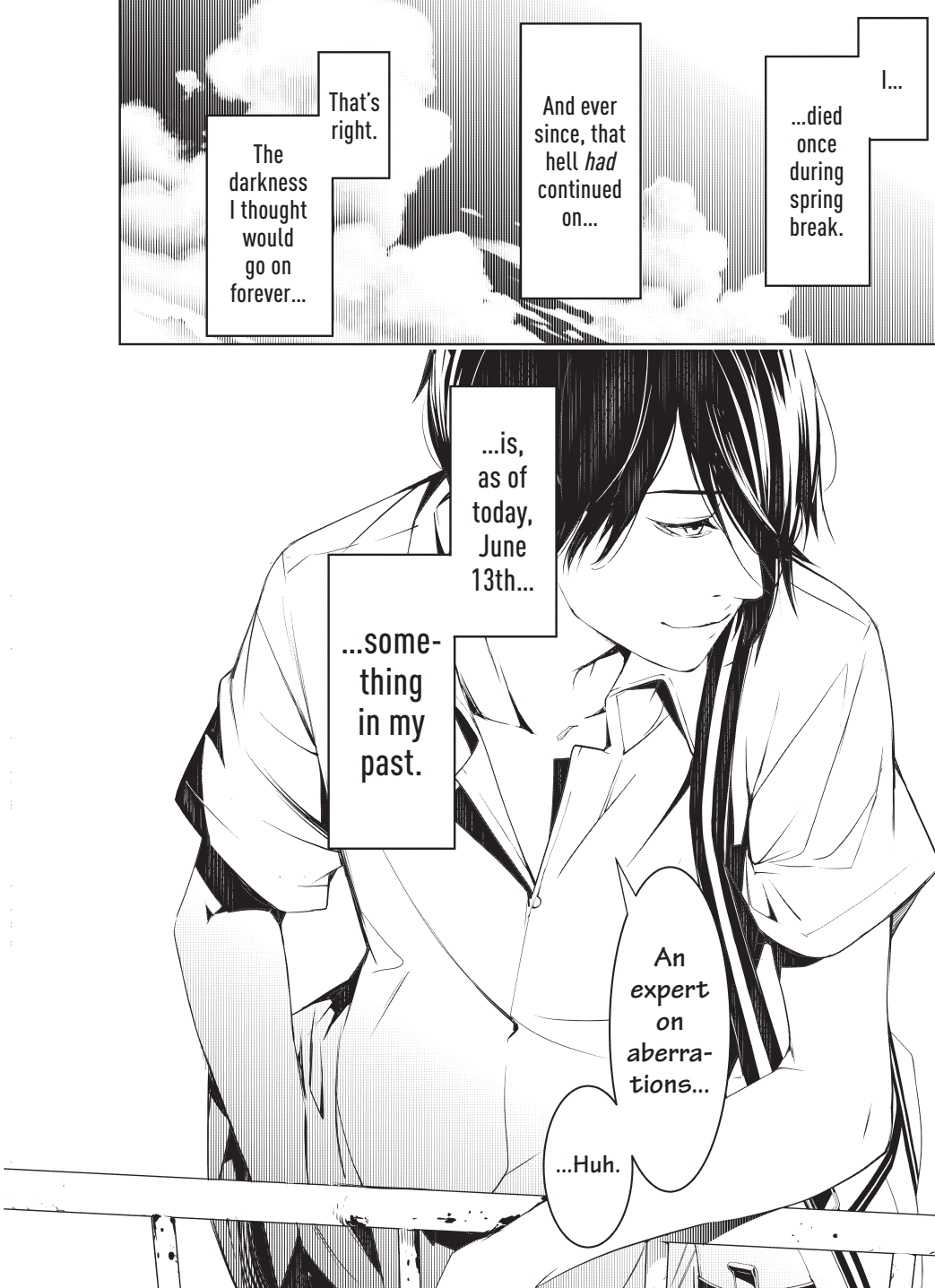

Sengoku's snake was exorcised by the talisman that Oshino gave me, so...
Not to mention that, as usual, I didn't do anything to help.
SHIINE

...that his talisman was something pretty amazing—like on the level of one of Doraemon's secret gadgets ...
I get the feeling ...
I'll send your thanks along to Oshino.

That's right.
I need to thank Oshino.
Your comebacks are always so timely and precise ...
Yes ...
Like the Genius Helmet and Technology Gloves.
AGAIN, WHY GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO CHOOSE OBSCURE ONES THAT ONLY EVER APPEARED IN THE THEATRICAL FEATURES FOR YOUR COMPARISON?!

Back then,
I...
...couldn't remember her.
Hunh...
Nadeko Sengoku was basically a stranger because I hardly remembered her.
And that's exactly what made her snake aberration so important to me.
If that curse had been laid on someone closer to me...
...like Senjogahara, or Kanbaru, or one of my sisters, I doubt I ever would have had the option to *not* save them.
I never would have thought about what it means to save someone,
and none of the things any of them said to me would have hit as hard as they did.

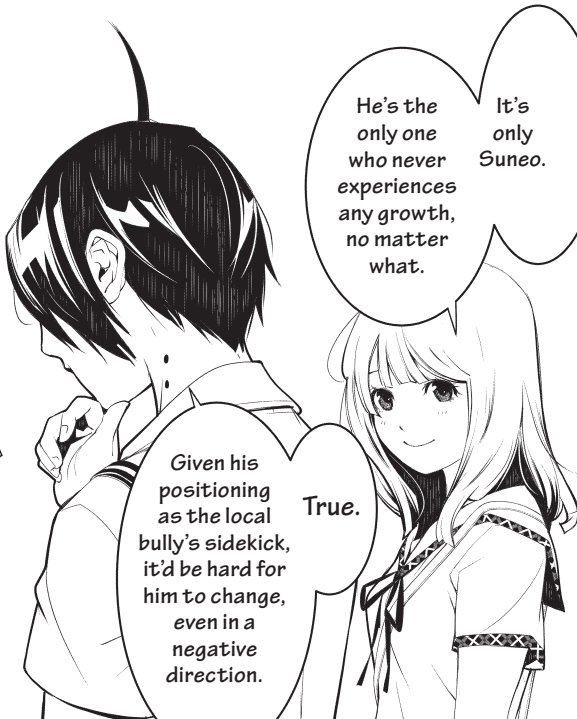
There's a wall of irresponsibility, you see.
If he's saying not to reach for something...
...when it's beyond my grasp and I can't be responsible for it...
Well...
...that just means I need to become someone who can be responsible.


I...
...died once during spring break.
And ever since, that hell *had* continued on...
That's right.
The darkness I thought would go on forever...
...is, as of today, June 13th...
...something in my past.
An expert on aberrations...
...Huh.

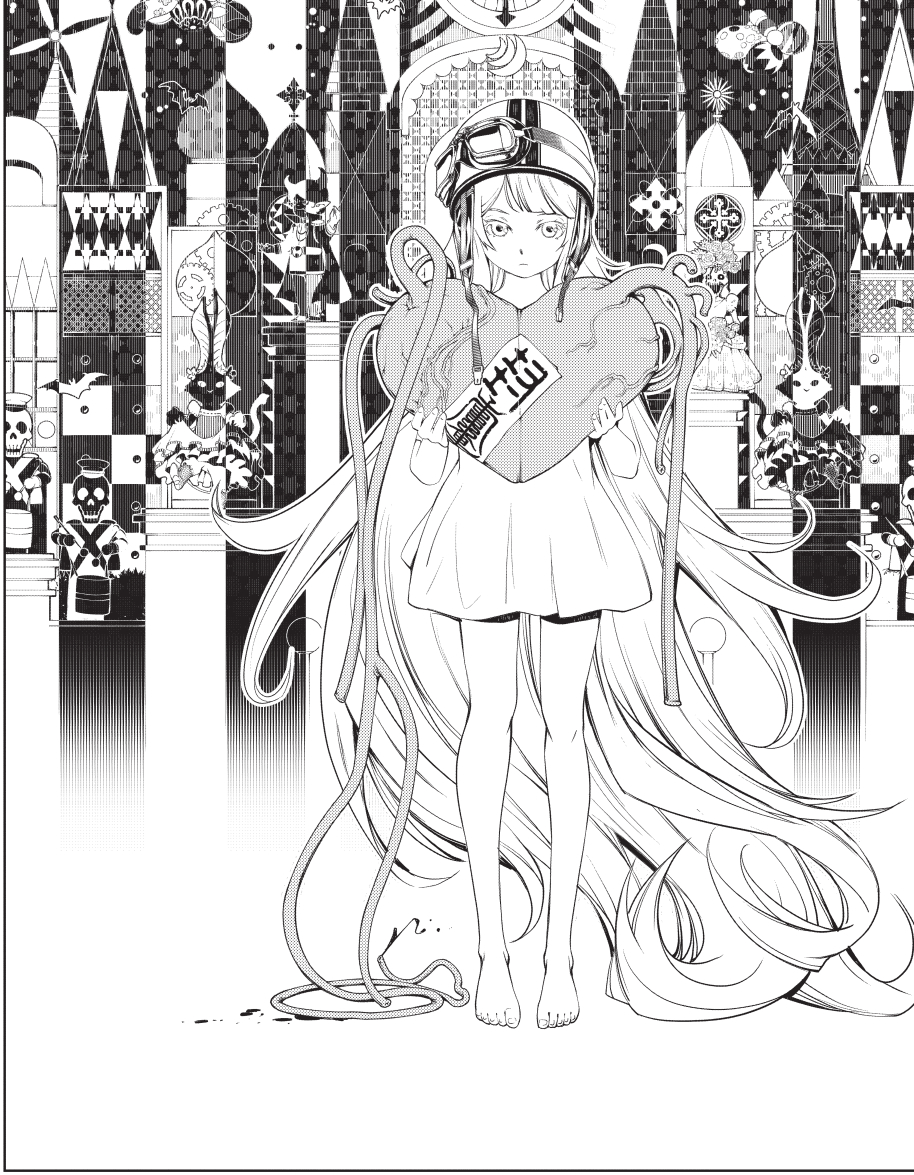
What is it?
By the way, Big Brother Koyomi...
Oh.
People say that in the movie versions of *Doraemon*, Gian suddenly becomes a weirdly grownup and good-natured character, but shouldn't they be saying that about Nobita more than anyone?
WHERE DID THAT NONSENSE QUESTION EVEN COME FROM?!

IT'S TRUE THAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT DORAEMON, BUT IT FEELS LIKE A WHOLE WEEK HAS PASSED SINCE THEN!
WHY WOULD YOU GO INTO GREATER DEPTH ABOUT THE DORAEMON MOVIES NOW, ANYWAY?!
Huh? But...
I don't feel like I spoke out of context.

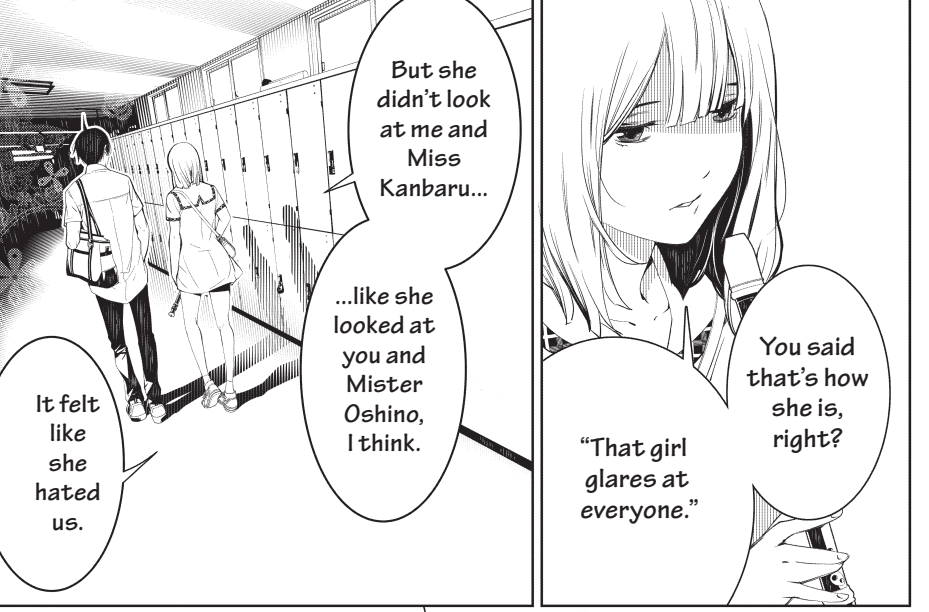
FIRE EXTINGUISHER
WAIT, WHY ARE WE GOING ON ABOUT THIS?!
...
I'm sorry.
...No, It's not anything you need to apologize for.

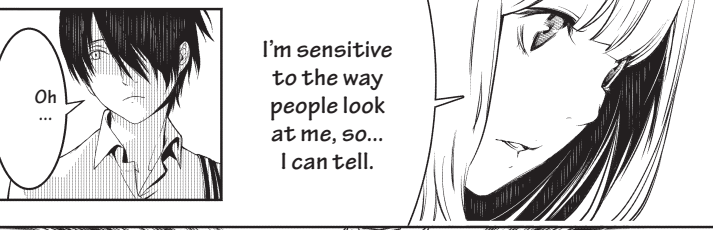

It's only Suneo.
He's the only one who never experiences any growth, no matter what.
True.
Given his positioning as the local bully's sidekick, it'd be hard for him to change, even in a negative direction.

I wanted to see how far you'd go making retorts, and I just...
...got carried away.
When I said "by the way," I actually wasn't planning on talking about *Doraemon*.
If that's the case, you ought to be saying sorry a lot more.
Look at this introverted girl having her fun.
Oh? So now you're the one testing me?
Okay.
By the way, Big Brother Koyomi.
What is it?
About last night...
...
Mmgh...
It seems Sengoku doesn't know that repetition is key to playing the fool in a comedy duo...
If it were Hachikuji, she might have gone beyond repetition and even come up with something snappy to turn the tables...
It's just not enough for me...

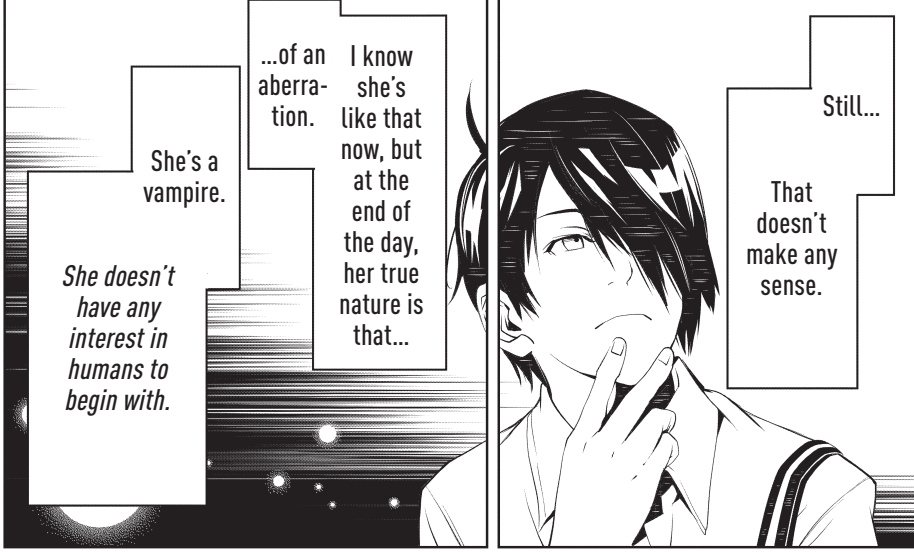


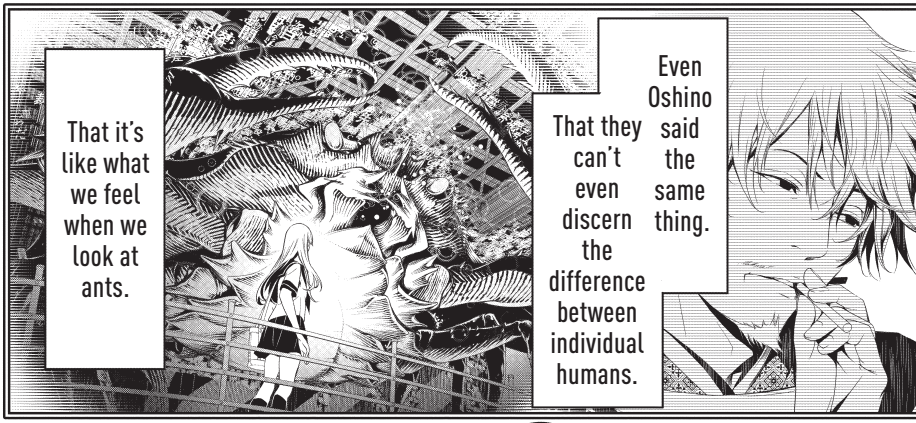
She was glaring like crazy at you and Kanbaru?
Shinobu ?

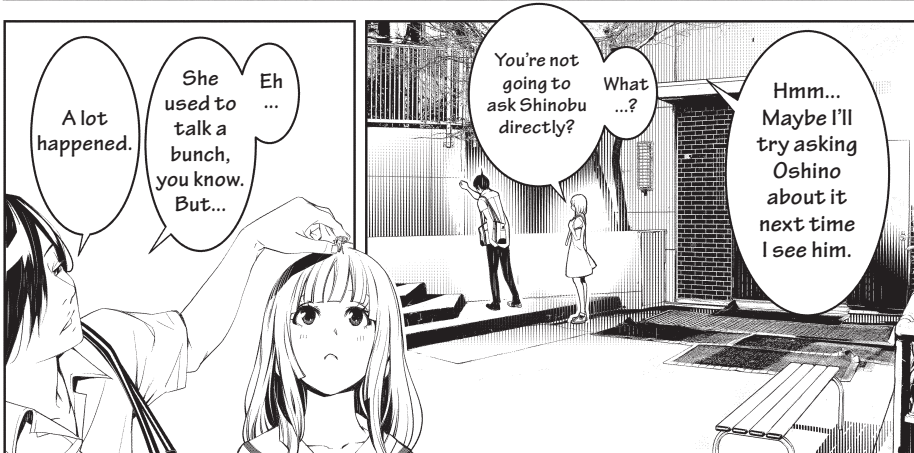

But she didn't look at me and Miss Kanbaru...
...like she looked at you and Mister Oshino, I think.
It felt like she hated us.
You said that's how she is, right?
"That girl glares at everyone."


Oh ...
I'm sensitive to the way people look at me, so... I can tell.

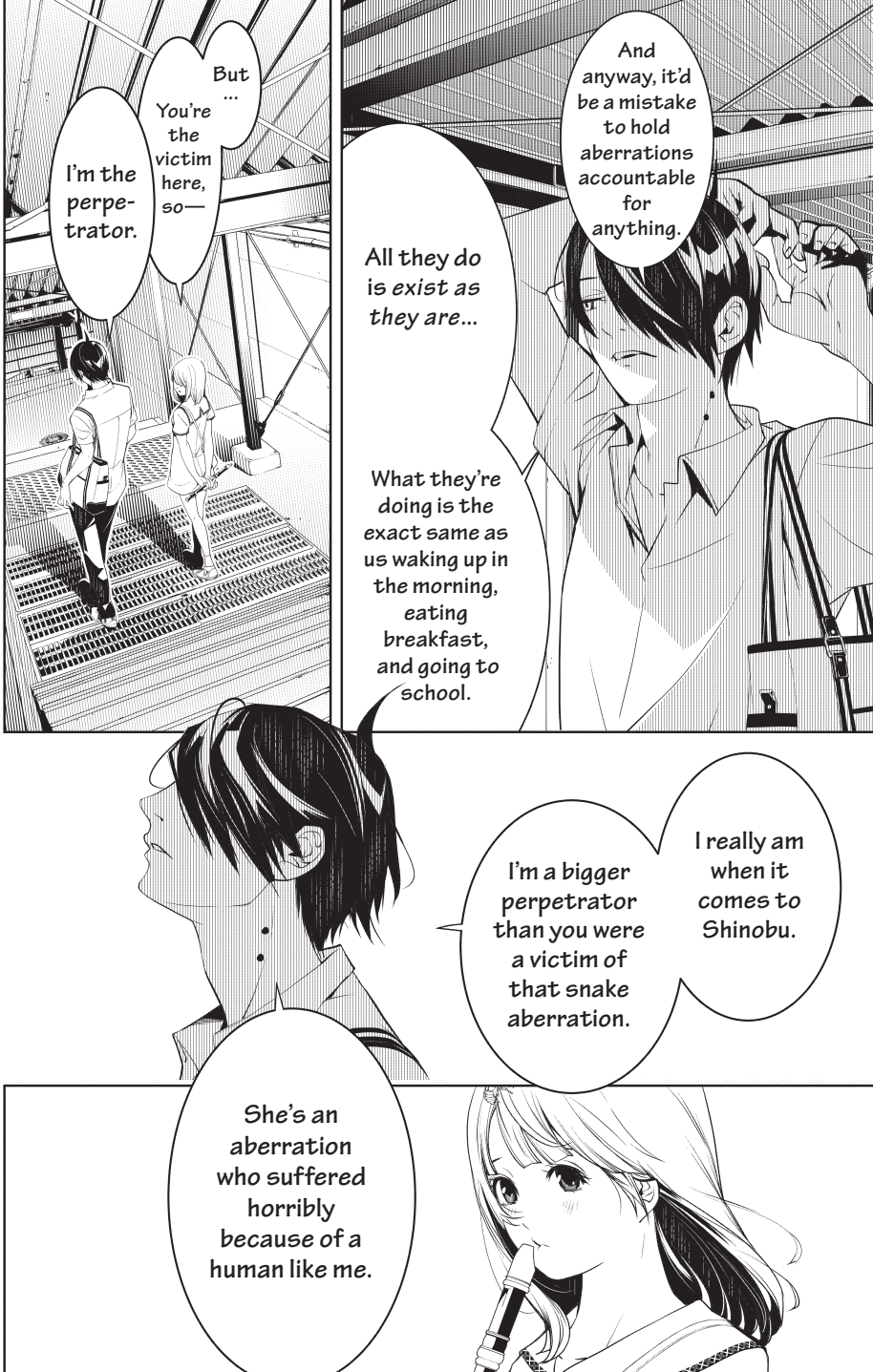
EYES !!
...
You know ...
I feel like Senjogahara said something similar in the past...
Though she was more straight-forward about it, telling me, "I was just challenged to a battle"...

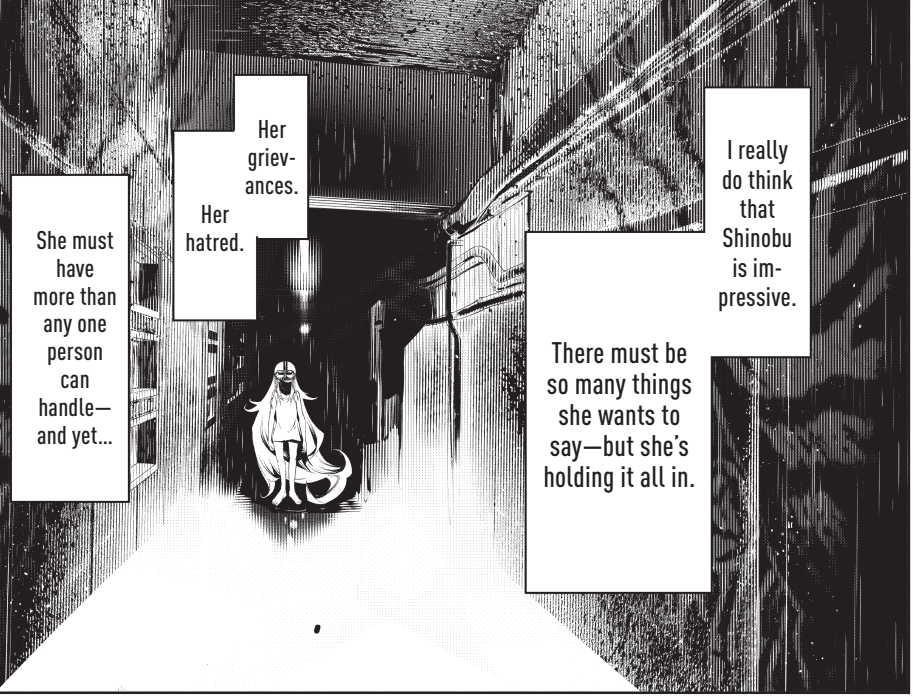

Still...
That doesn't make any sense.
I know she's like that now, but at the end of the day, her true nature is that...
...of an aberration.
She's a vampire.
She doesn't have any interest in humans to begin with.


Even Oshino said the same thing.
That they can't even discern the difference between individual humans.
That it's like what we feel when we look at ants.


Hmm... Maybe I'll try asking Oshino about it next time I see him.
What ...?
You're not going to ask Shinobu directly?
Eh ...
She used to talk a bunch, you know. But...
A lot happened.

What you saw is like a husk of her former self.
I haven't heard her voice in over two months.
Now she's closed her heart off and locked it tight.
I see...
...
...Huh?
No reaction, huh...
I thought she'd be more... annoyed or something.
But Big Brother Koyomi... Isn't it her fault that you're—
No, she didn't do anything wrong.
It's my fault. And mine alone.

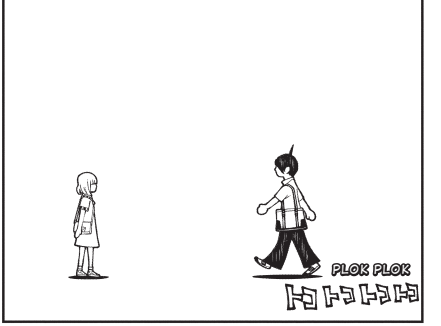

And anyway, it'd be a mistake to hold aberrations accountable for anything.
All they do is exist as they are...
What they're doing is the exact same as us waking up in the morning, eating breakfast, and going to school.
But...
You're the victim here, so—
I'm the perpetrator.
I really am when it comes to Shinobu.
I'm a bigger perpetrator than you were a victim of that snake aberration.
She's an aberration who suffered horribly because of a human like me.


She must have more than any one person can handle—and yet...
Her grievances.
Her hatred.
There must be so many things she wants to say—but she's holding it all in.
I really do think that Shinobu is impressive.

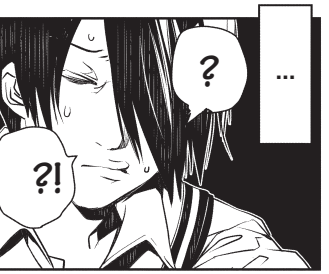
...
...

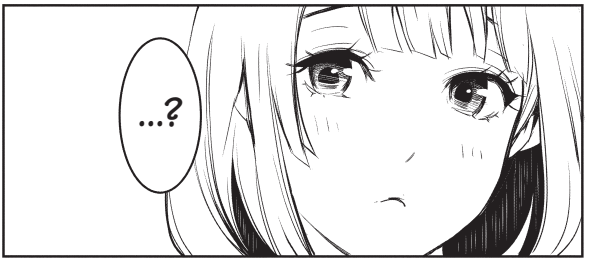
Wh...
What is it?
HISSSSS
THWOPP
ZSSSSHHH
Um ...
...
I was just going to take a cicada husk off your head...
He put it there.

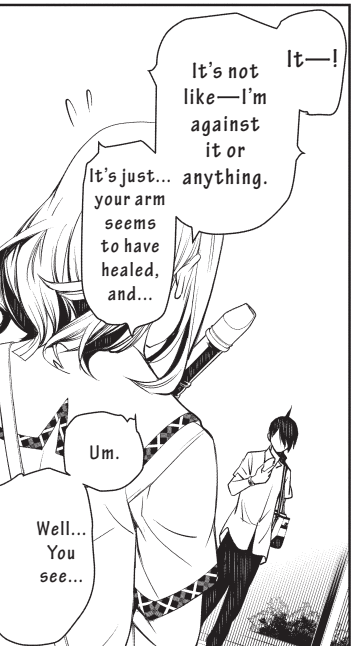
PLIP


PLOK PLOK
トコトコトコトコ

Left hand

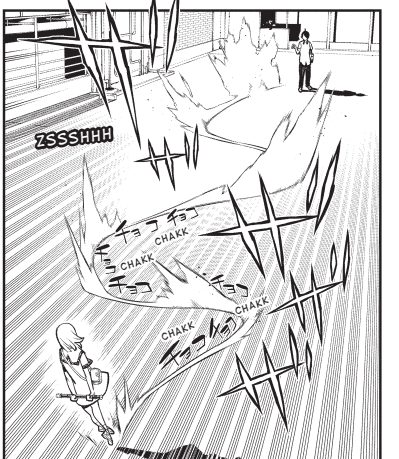

...
?
?!


...?


It—!
It's not like—I'm against it or anything.
It's just... your arm seems to have healed, and...
Um.
Well... You see...

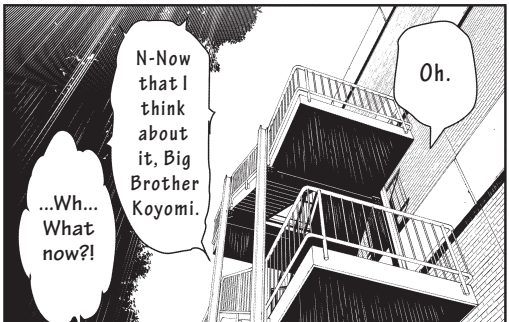
...!

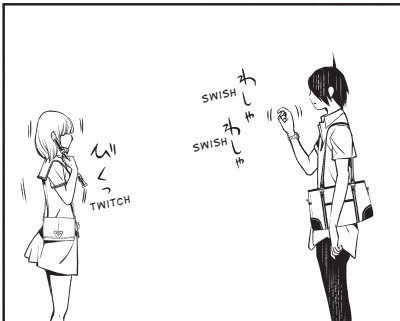
Righ
and


ZSSSHHH
チョコチョコ
CHAKK
チョコ
CHAKK
チョコ
CHAKK
CHAKK
チョコ

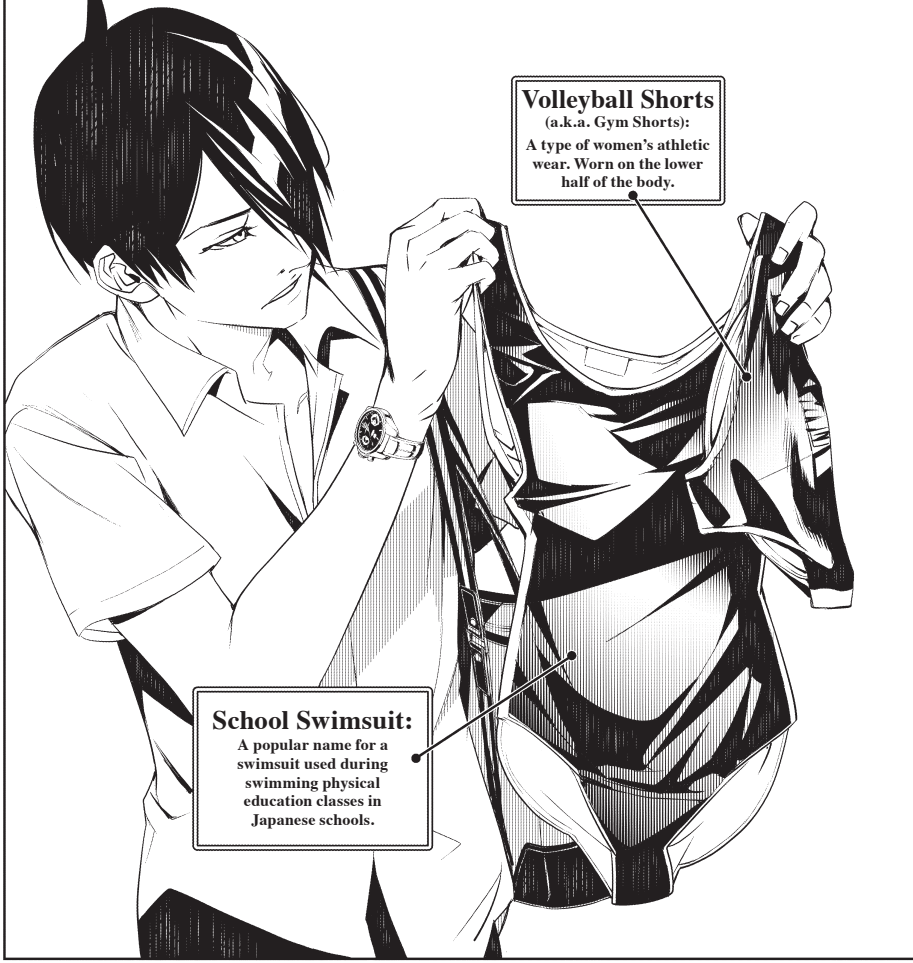
If...
If it were darker out, then— I could help you with your...
rehab.
A- Any time ...
... you ...
... want ...

But...
Wh... What? I have no idea what she's talking about.
The memories of my right hand's cells are trying to tell me something...
Some-thing... very import-ant...!!
SWEAT
SWEAT
SWEAT
SWISH
SWISH


Oh.
N-Now that I think about it, Big Brother Koyomi.
...Wh... What now?!

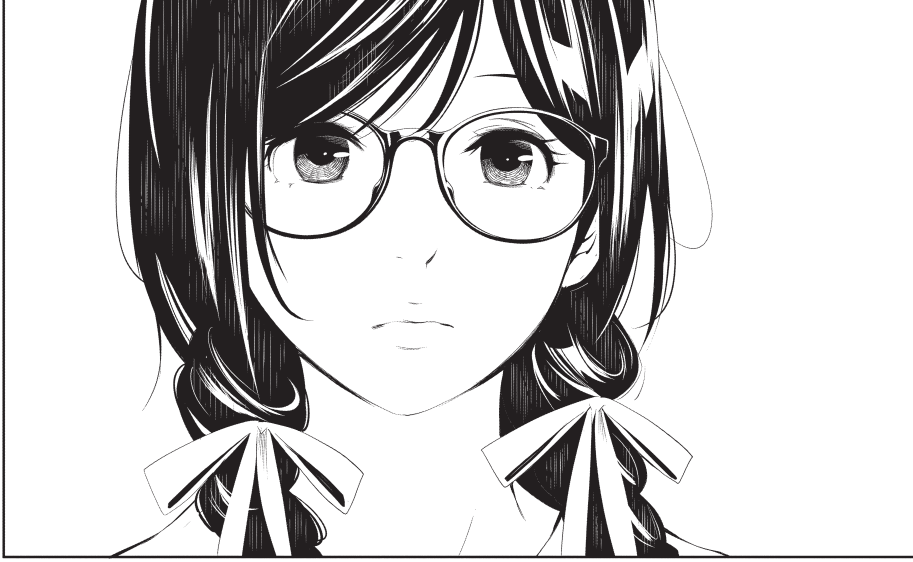

TWITCH
SWISH
SWISH

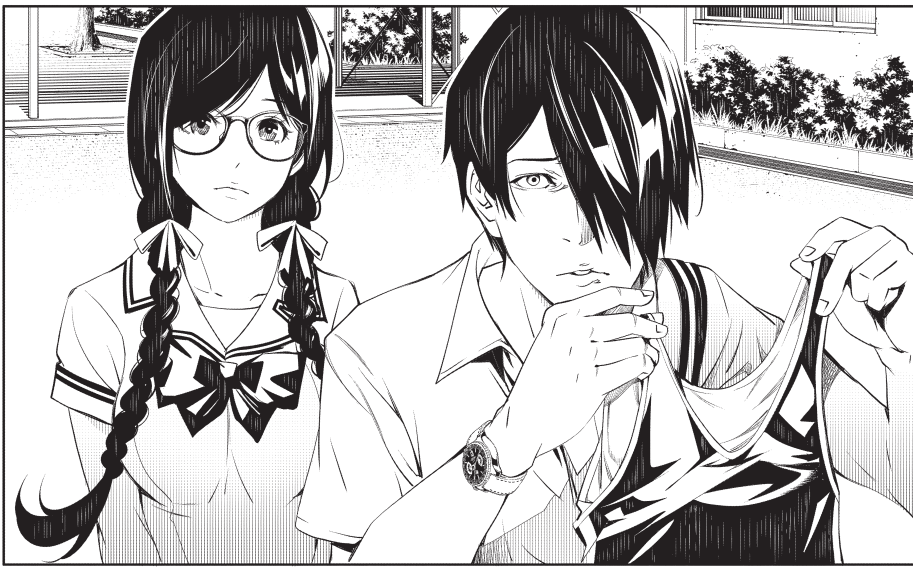
Ummm... Are you... going all the way there just to say thanks?
Yeah.
I also have... some business to take care of...
Huh? Yeah.
Do you know where Miss Kanbaru's home is?
Could you tell me the address?
You know it's pretty far, right?
Far out towards the mountains. How are you getting there? By bus?
It'll be dark by the time you get there.
What...?
It's that... far?
If you want, I can handle any business you have with her.
I should be meeting her tomorrow, anyway.
...
Then—
Could you, please? I think it'd be faster that way, anyway...
Here.
I'd like you to give this to Miss Kanbaru.
RUSTLE

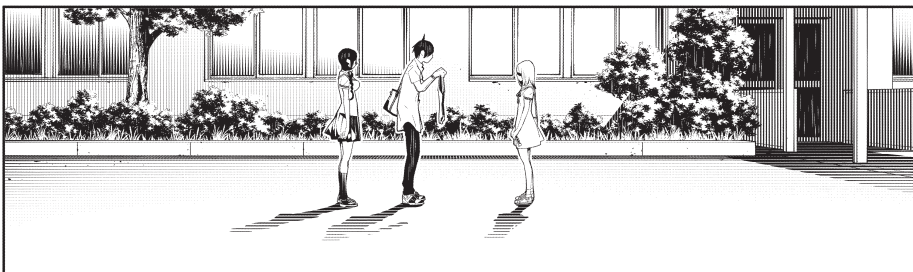

Volleyball Shorts
(a.k.a. Gym Shorts):
A type of women's athletic wear. Worn on the lower half of the body.
School Swimsuit:
A popular name for a swimsuit used during swimming physical education classes in Japanese schools.

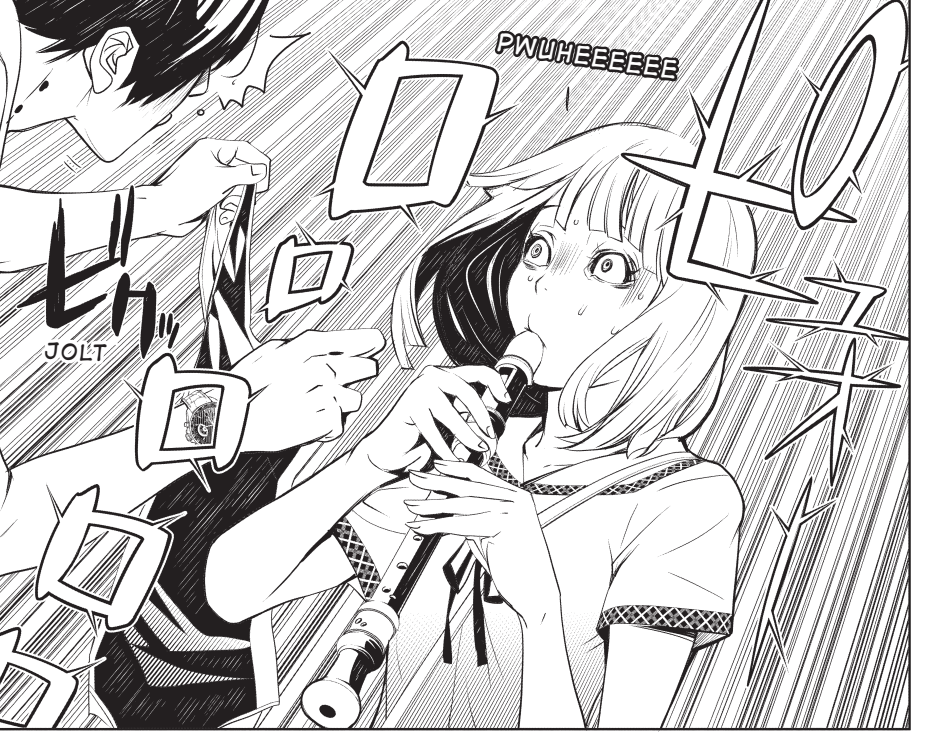
I made sure to wash them, so they should be clean...

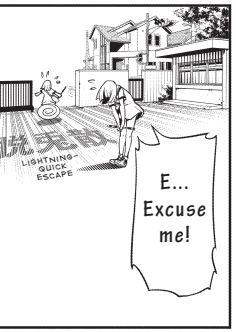
What a high bar!
Now *this* is a trial.
A guy receiving gym shorts and a school swimsuit from a middle school girl inside his own high school...
...
O-Okay ... I'll hold onto these...
If anyone I knew saw this, my nickname would surely become...
They stretch ?!!
Urk!
...Koyomi Volleyball Shorts School Swimsuit!!



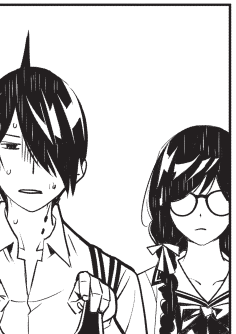





PWUHEEEEEE
JOLT

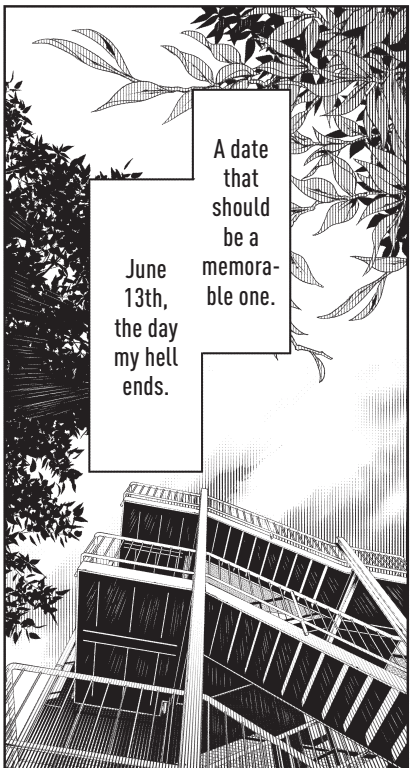

LIGHTNING-QUICK ESCAPE

E... Excuse me!



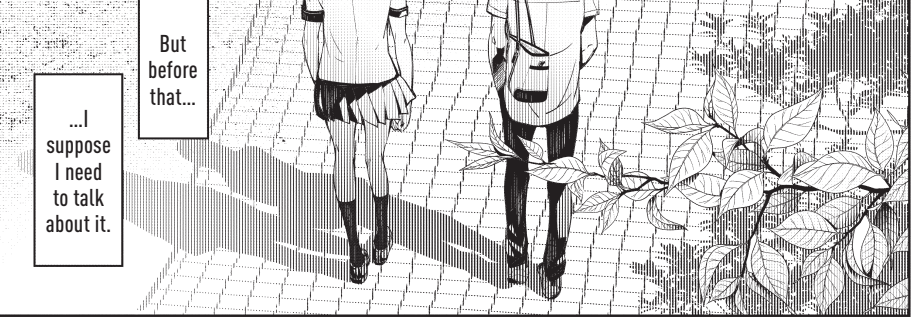
PWEEEEOOOKK
DAAASH

That... was kind of hurtful, I think ...
Do I look that scary?
Sorry, Hanekawa.
Sengoku's so shy that she'd bring her own bag to the grocery store because she's too scared to answer a clerk when she gets asked "paper or plastic," so...


A date that should be a memorable one.
June 13th, the day my hell ends.

You said you had something important to do today, right...? So this is what it was?
Koyomi Volleyball Shorts School Swimsuit.

No.
—And don't read people's minds, you genius.


But before that...
...I suppose I need to talk about it.

About Hane-kawa.
About Shino-bu.

About the day that my personal hell began.

BAKEMONOGATARI

00: Koyomi Vamp

Currently known as— Shinobu Oshino.
Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade.
It all happened during spring break.
I was attacked by a vampire.

I must have had bad luck.
But...
even if someone else were to have the same bad luck as me, the idea of them meeting the same fate that I did...
Awright!
KLANG
One more!
...doesn't seem very likely to me.
KLINK...

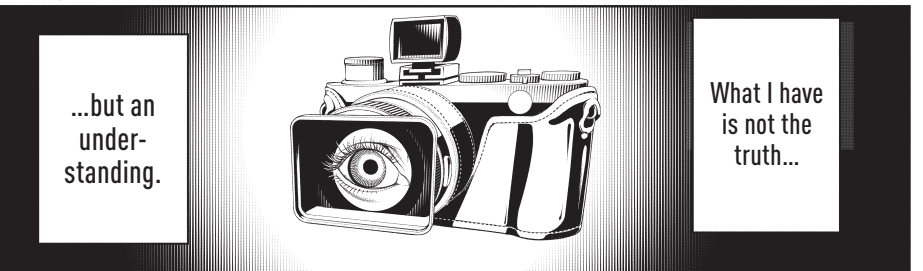
In the end,
it happened because I, Koyomi Araragi, am who I am.
...That's how I see this chain of events.
—You know, Araragi.

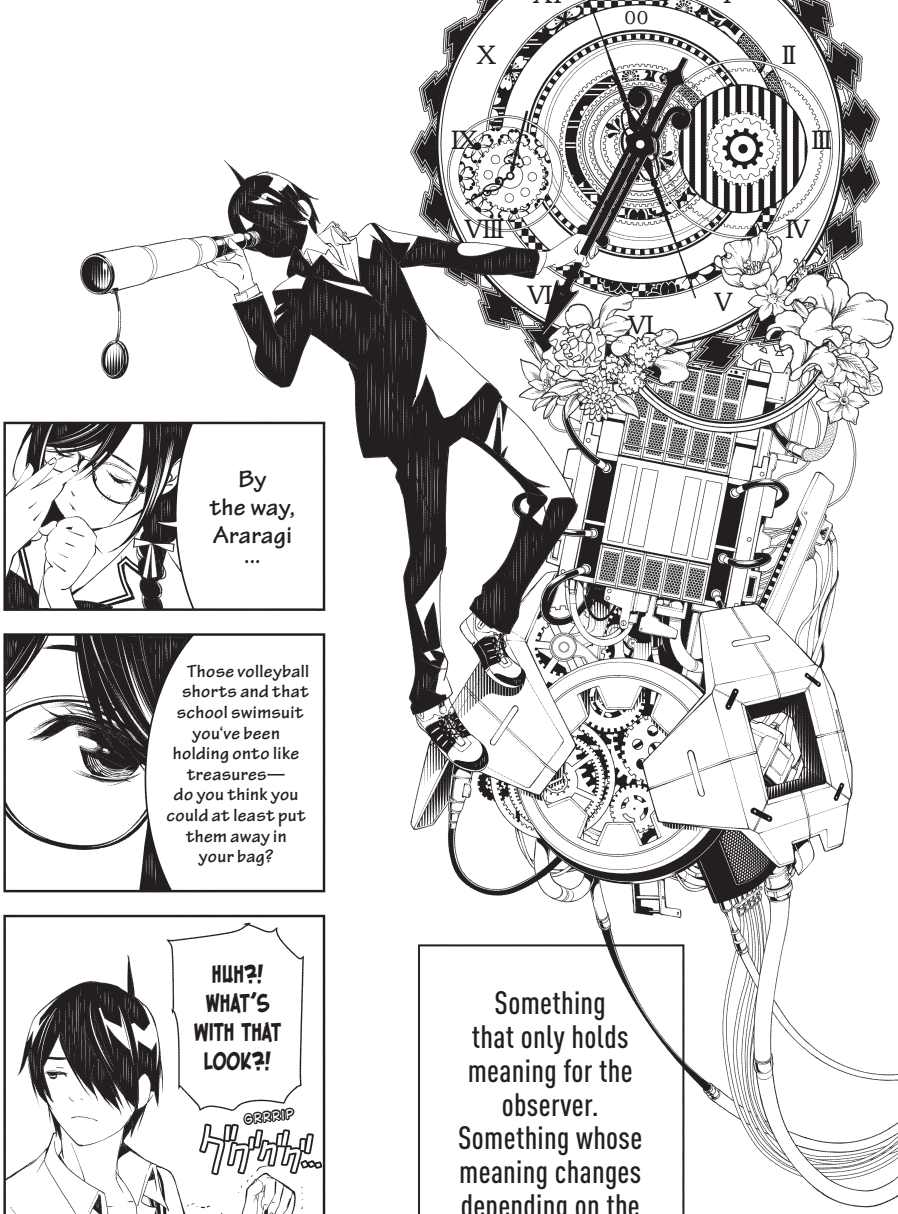
You've been acting more and more...
...like a Chad lately.
...
A Chad?
...
What's that?
But I don't know...
...where the incident began or where it ended.
Actually, to start with—if I look at things from a different perspective...
10
YOU REALLY KNOW EVERYTHING!
HASN'T THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY JUST STARTED?!
WHY DO YOU KNOW ABOUT FOREIGN WORDS FROM THE FUTURE?!
Everyone in America's saying it in 2019.
AND YOU KNOW ABOUT THE FUTURE!!
Not everything. I just know what I know.

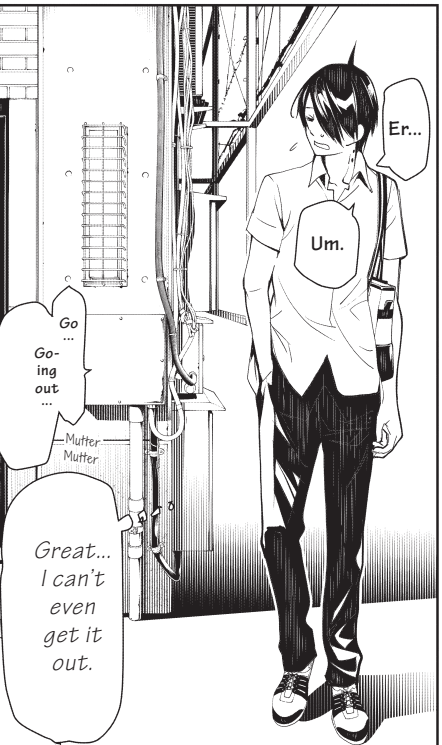
Want to hear an interesting rumor going around? People are saying that ...
The person at the center of it all...
...might not have been me—or even Kiss-Shot.
You could say it was Hanekawa.
"Koyomi Araragi is having a bad influence on Senjogahara."
"Senjogahara's been acting weird ever since she got close to Araragi."
I will never be able to know what it all meant.
There's nothing interesting about that.
In the end, I can only talk about it from my own perspective.

And I don't think you should be talking to cute middle school girls on school grounds.
You can't just let people besmirch her honor by saying that dating a guy has ruined her.

I don't change, after all.
Me? I don't think so. And even if they were, I doubt they'd say it to my face.
What about you, Hanekawa...? Are people saying things about you?
...Of course I shouldn't be.
But...

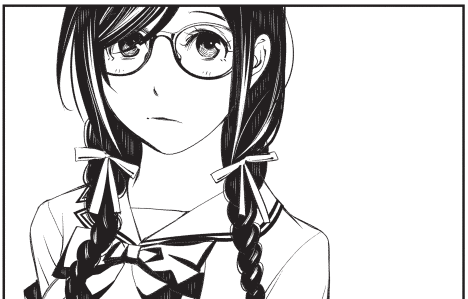

...but an under-standing.
What I have is not the truth...


By the way, Araragi ...
Those volleyball shorts and that school swimsuit you've been holding onto like treasures— do you think you could at least put them away in your bag?
HUH?! WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK?!
GRRRIP
グググッ...
IT'S NOT RIGHT!!
Something that only holds meaning for the observer. Something whose meaning changes depending on the observer. Something whose meaning cannot be agreed upon by its observers.

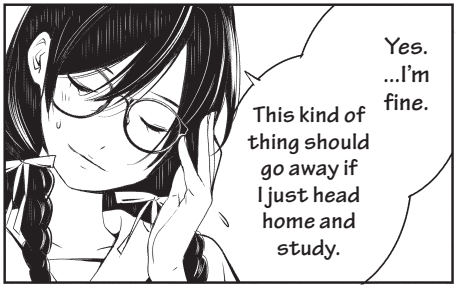

Er...
Um.
Go...
Go-ing out...
Mutter Mutter
Great... I can't even get it out.

Hanekawa always seems to have an opinion when it comes to romance, but...
You know...

Hey, Hanekawa... Are you... going ou...
...does she have her own special someone...?

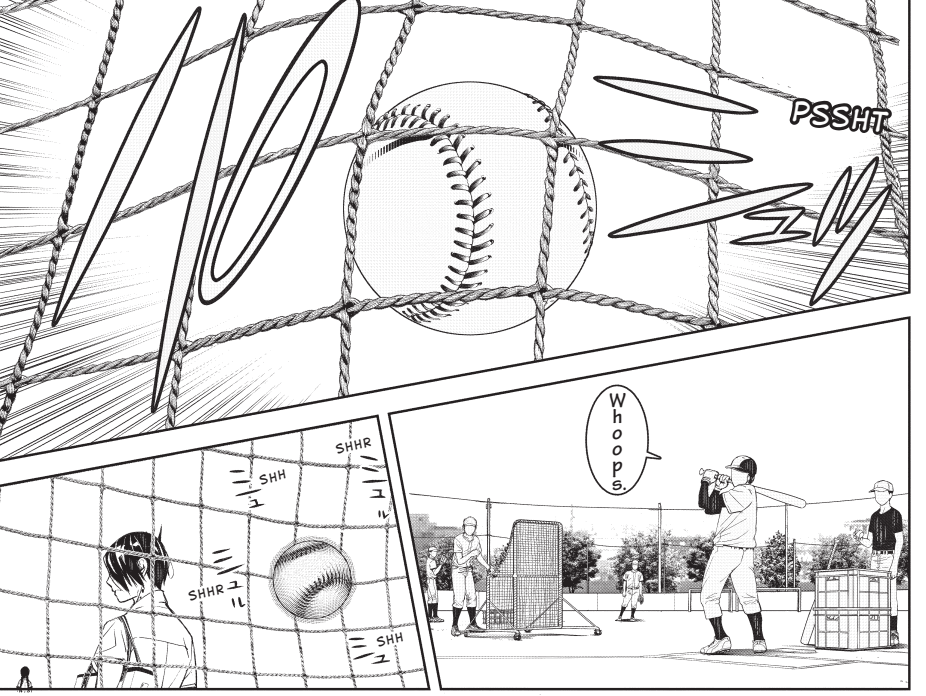


Ah!
Ow ...!!
Going...out to see that Doraemon feature where they go to the moon...?

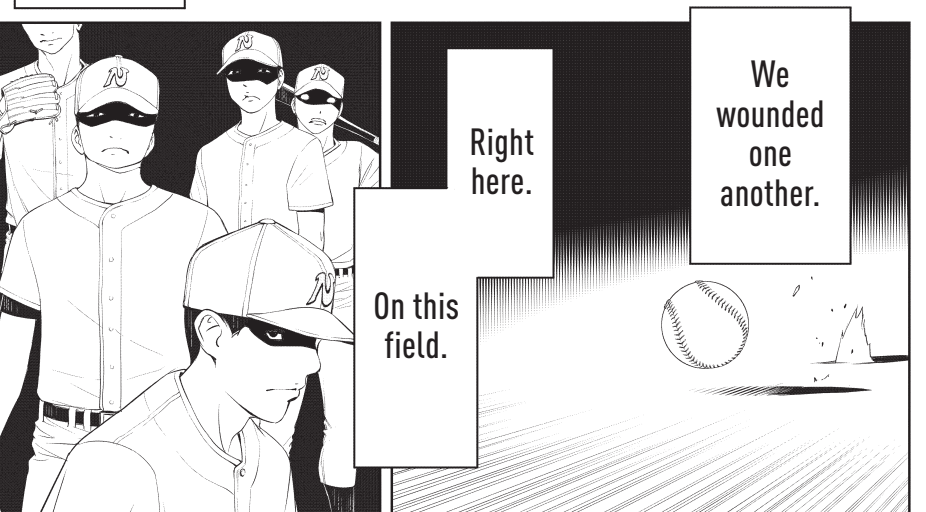

Yes. ...I'm fine.
This kind of thing should go away if I just head home and study.

?!
Another head-ache?
Are you okay?

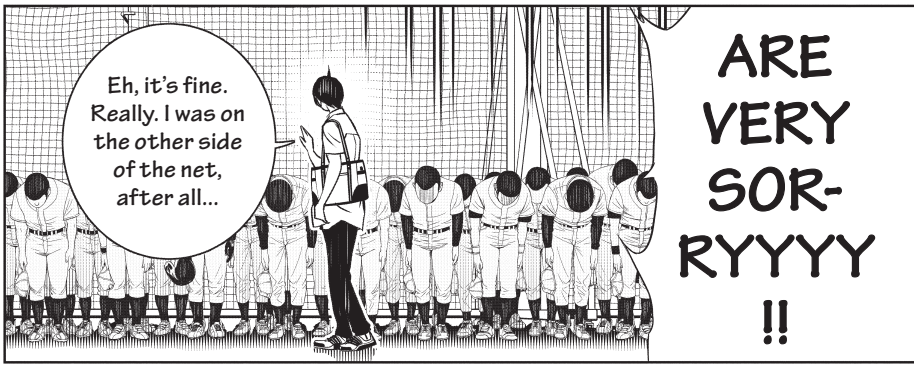
You said you've been getting them a lot recently.
What if it's some kind of really bad disease or something?
You worry too much.
See you later.
I still have some things left to prepare for the cultural festival.


PSSHT
Whoops.
SHHR
SHH
SHHR
SHH

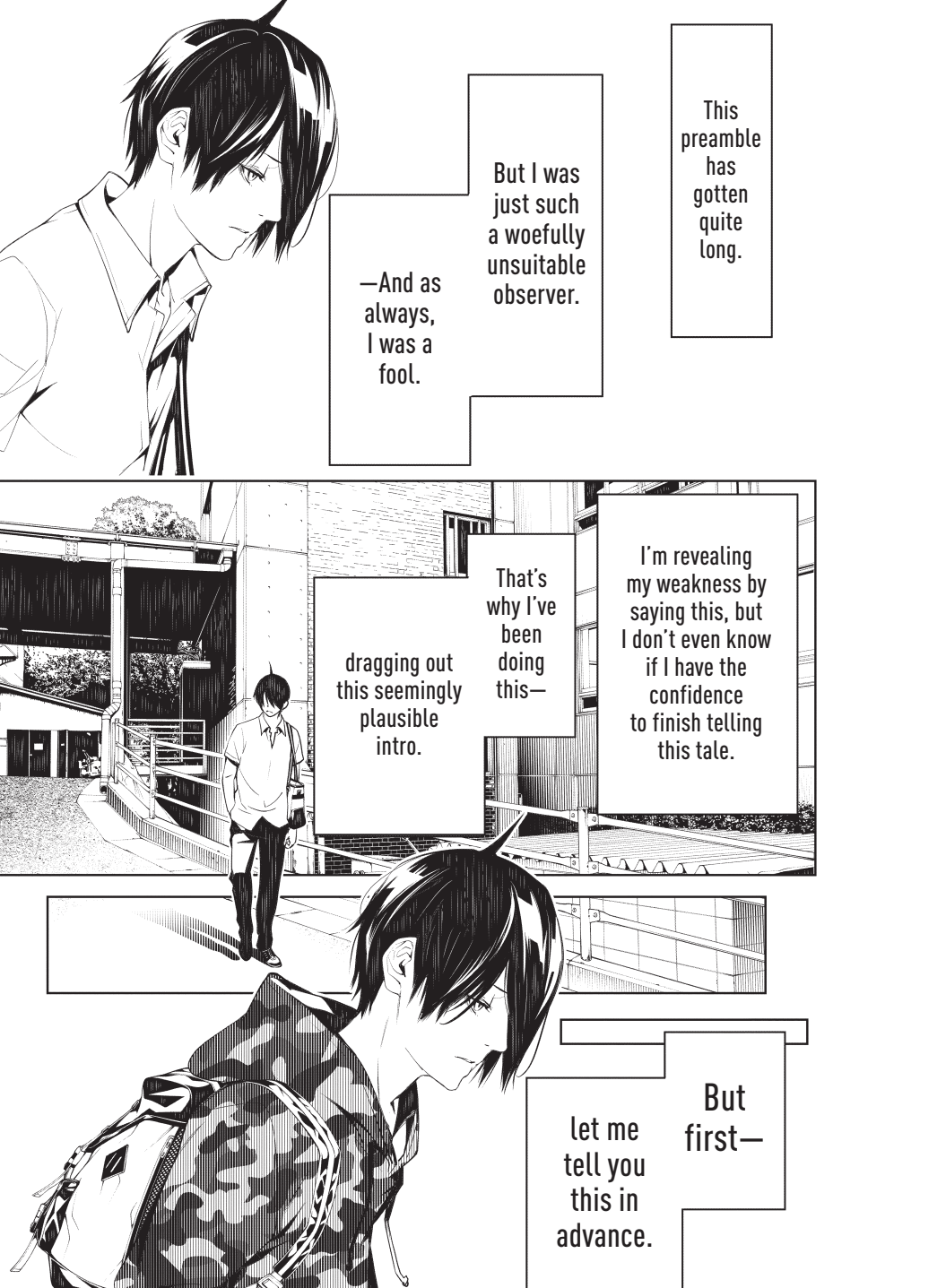
Spring break.


We wounded one another.
Right here.
On this field.

WE
...


Eh, it's fine. Really. I was on the other side of the net, after all...
ARE VERY SOR-RYYYY !!

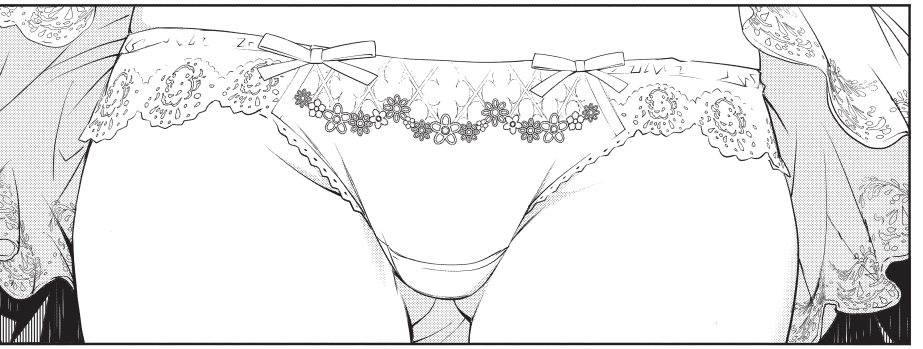
You idiot!! Keep your head down!!
That's Mister Araragi right there!!!
THAT WAS WILD...
PHEW
Was there an issue lately with someone getting hit by a ball or something...?
...Why would they give me such an absurdly proper apology ?

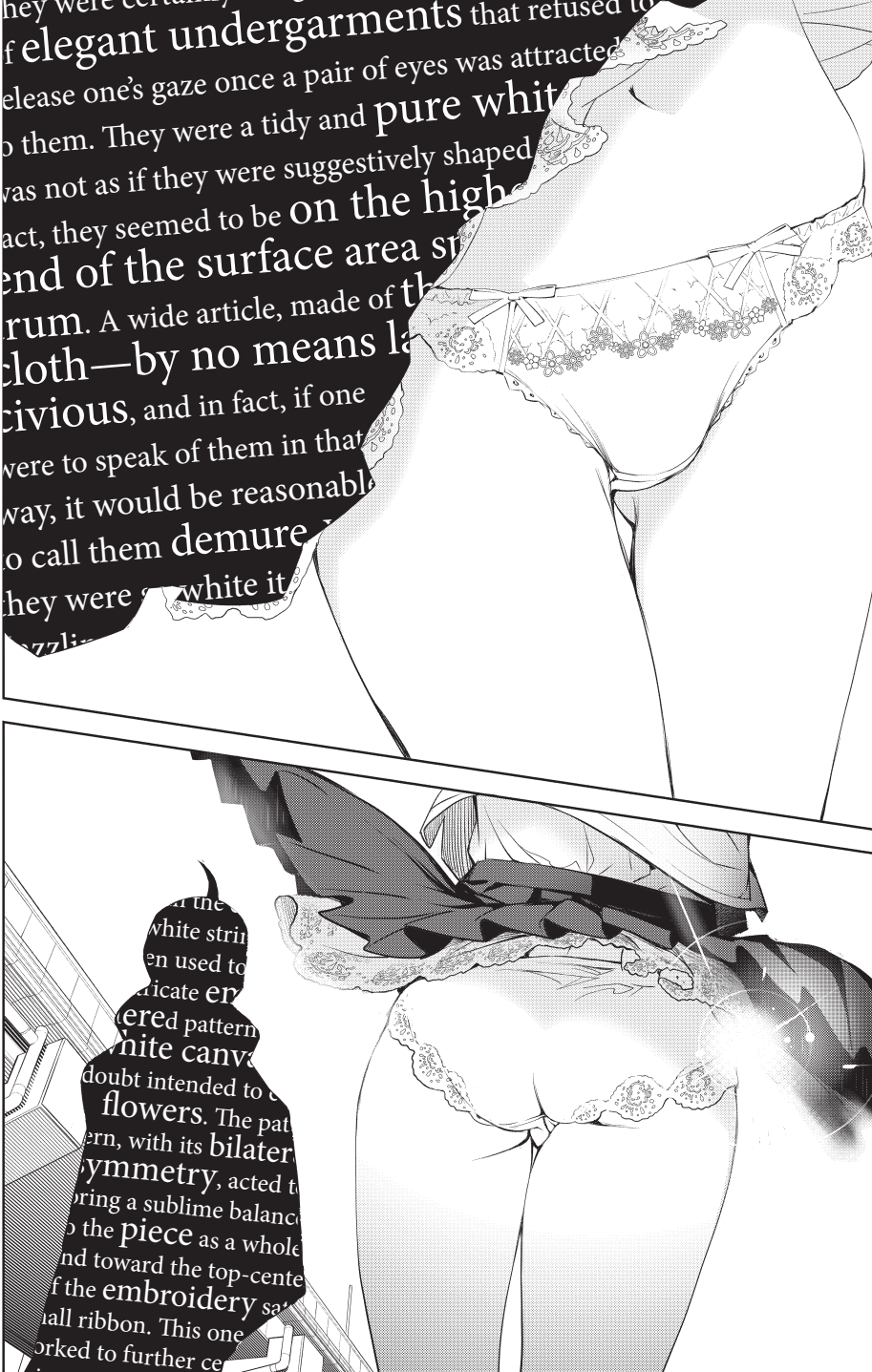

This preamble has gotten quite long.
But I was just such a woefully unsuitable observer.
—And as always, I was a fool.
I'm revealing my weakness by saying this, but I don't even know if I have the confidence to finish telling this tale.
That's why I've been doing this—
dragging out this seemingly plausible intro.
But first—
let me tell you this in advance.

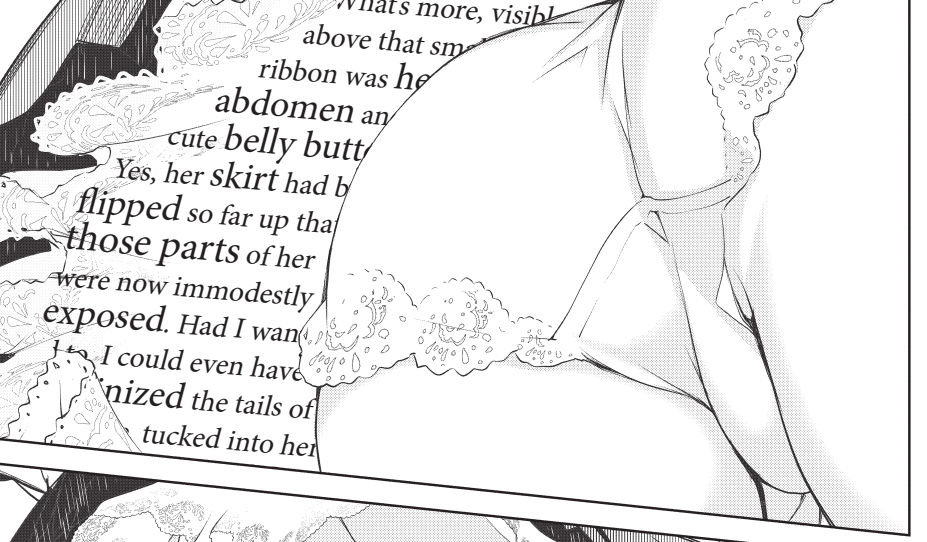
This tale of wounds surrounding a vampire...
BWOOOOOSH
...has an unhappy ending.
March 25th
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAPP

...with everyone becoming miserable.
It concludes ...
ZSSHH

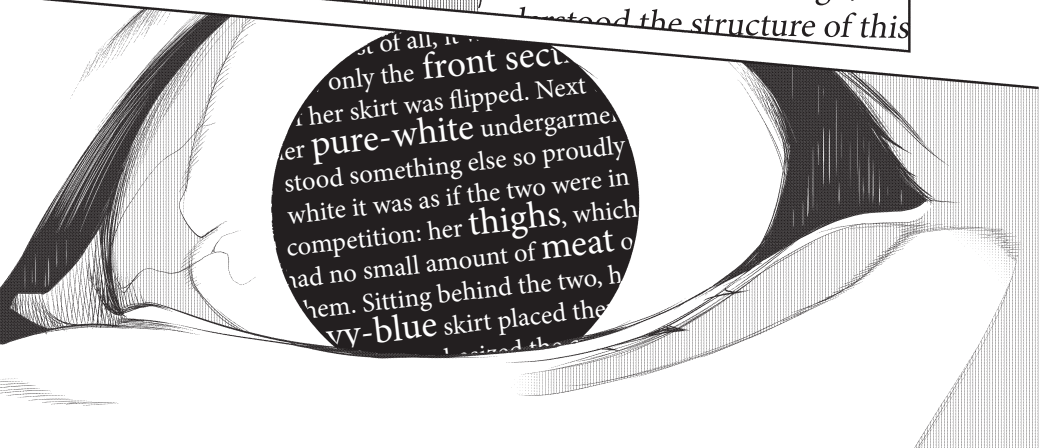
FWOOF
ばっ
BAM




elegant undergarments that refused to
elease one's gaze once a pair of eyes was attracted
o them. They were a tidy and pure whit
vas not as if they were suggestively shaped
act, they seemed to be on the high
end of the surface area s
rum. A wide article, made of th
cloth—by no means la
civious, and in fact, if one
were to speak of them in that
way, it would be reasonabl
o call them demure
hey were white it
white stri
en used to
ricate en
ered pattern
hite canv
doubt intended to
flowers. The pat
ern, with its bilater
ymmetry, acted t
ring a sublime balanc
o the piece as a whole
nd toward the top-cente
f the embroidery sa
all ribbon. This one
orked to further ce


What's more, visibl
above that sm
ribbon was he
abdomen an
cute belly butt
Yes, her skirt had b
flipped so far up tha
those parts of her
were now immodestly
exposed. Had I wan
I could even have
nized the tails of
tucked into her

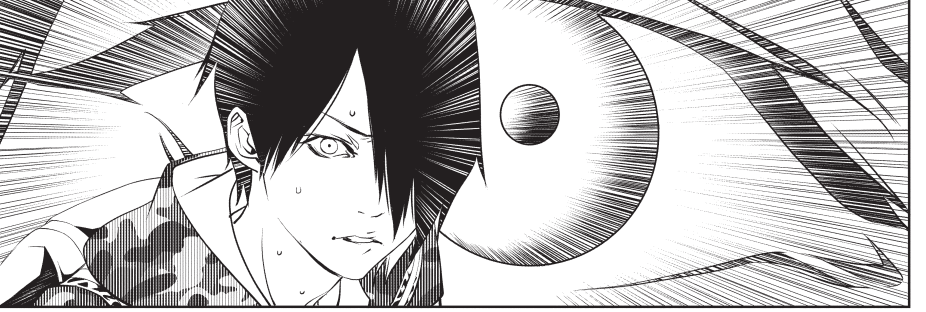
could appear so sala ious. T
irt was another fresh sight
ile I frequently caught sight o
ed to be inviolable, myste-
—but I now felt as though, for
understood the structure of this

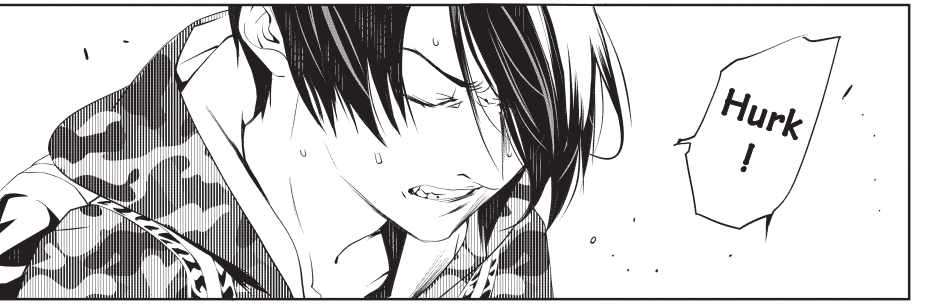

only the front secti
her skirt was flipped. Next
er pure-white undergarme
stood something else so proudly
white it was as if the two were in
competition: her thighs, which
had no small amount of meat o
them. Sitting behind the two, h
vy-blue skirt placed the

ats came across
made of fine
coupled with th
ds joined behind
emed as if she was
nted underwear
e appeared

This was it.
The moment of first contact between me and Tsubasa Hanekawa.

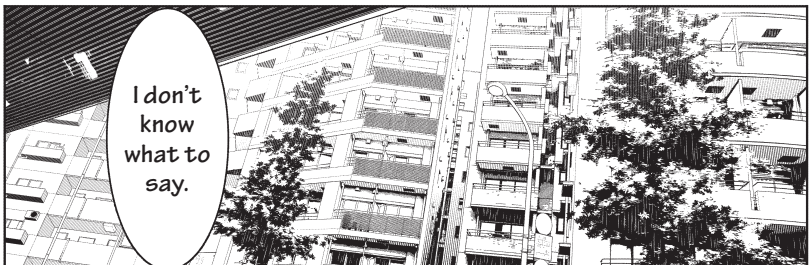
EH
HEH
HEH.
WEH
HEH
HEH.




Hurk
!

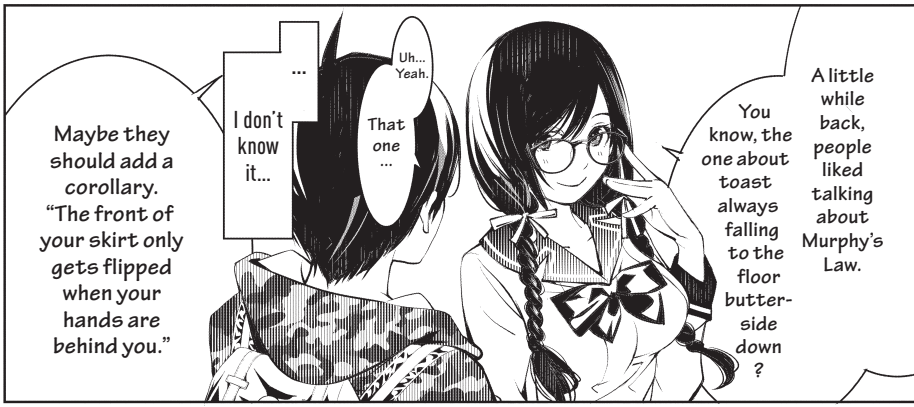
SHINE

INTEL
!
INSIDE
!!
INTEL
!
INSIDE!!
Now saving to hard drive...
TKKA
TKKA
TKKA
TKKA
TKKA
TKKA
TKKA


I don't know what to say.

THP
THP
THP
For something that's meant to hide what you don't want seen, skirts sure are low security.
Maybe I really do need a pair of bike shorts as a firewall of sorts...

What does that make me, a virus?
...Wh... Who knows?

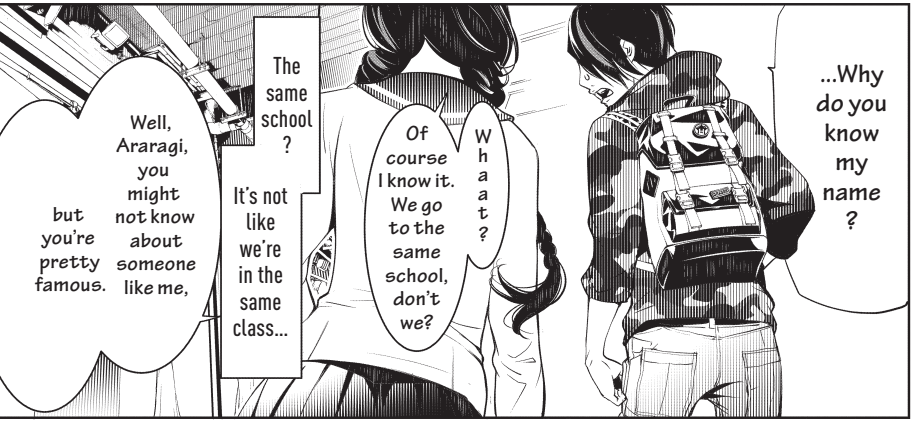

Maybe they should add a corollary. "The front of your skirt only gets flipped when your hands are behind you."
...
I don't know it...
Uh... Yeah.
That one ...
You know, the one about toast always falling to the floor butter-side down?
A little while back, people liked talking about Murphy's Law.

I almost feel like I'm being attacked ...
This is so awkward ...
Um ...
What made her decide to start talking to me?

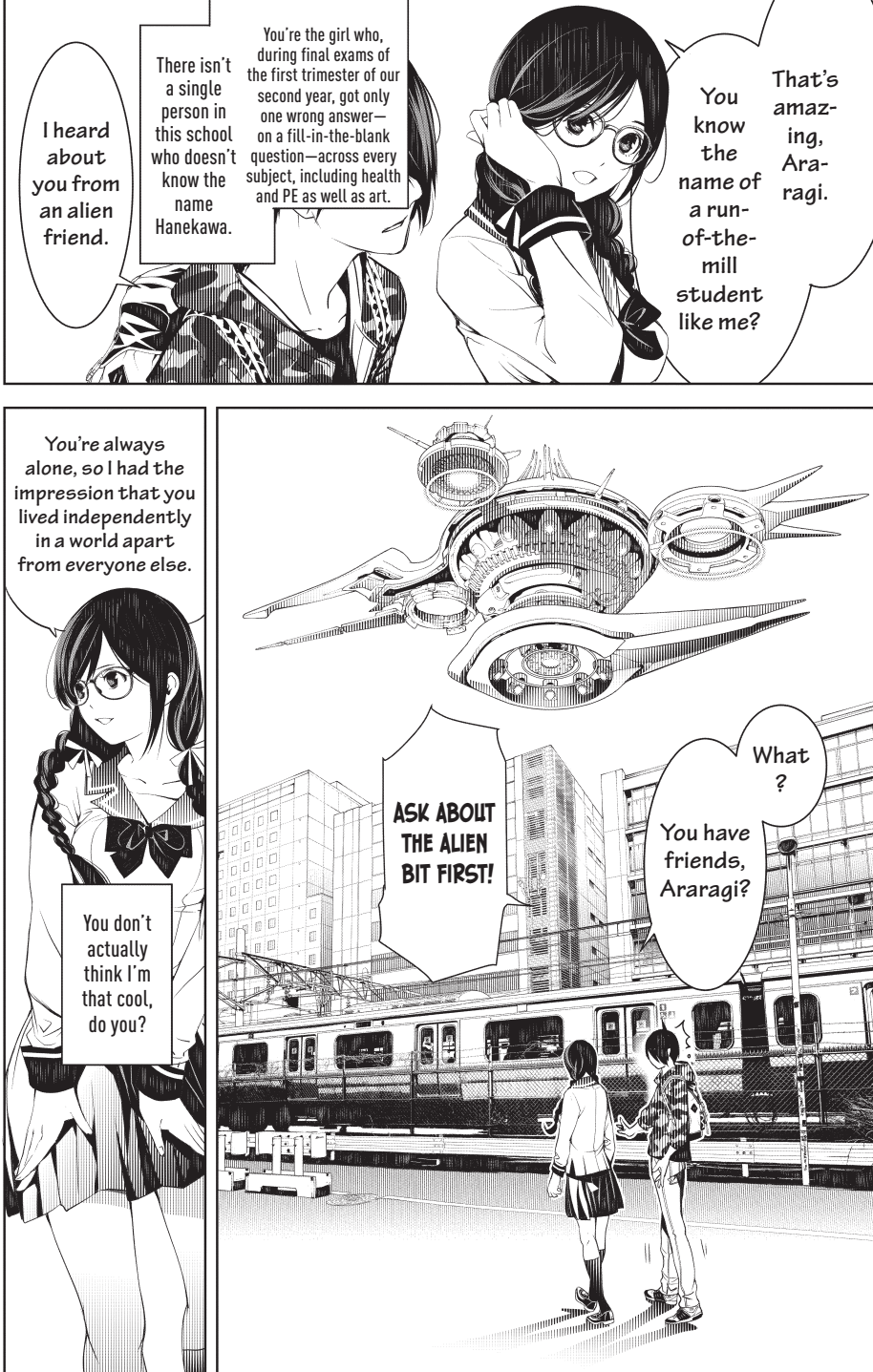
I could see them so clearly it was ridiculous.
This is, of course, another lie.
W-Well …
It may be a lie to say I didn't see them, but I couldn't see them very well because they were obscured by shadows.
Don't worry.
SO ?
THAT
IS
As a girl, it would make me feel much more at ease if you just said you got a good look at them if you really did.
Well… I…
I really do wish I could say that to you, but I simply cannot tell you anything but the truth.
Oh, really? You can't?

Words from a man spewing nothing but lies all this time.
If only I could lie to you.
Yeah. It's too bad I can't make you feel at ease.
...you just spent about six pages...
It kind of felt like...
...giving a precise description of what was under my skirt, down to the fine details— but maybe that's all in my head?
Yup, all in your head. Just all up in there.
Up until now, I was using my words as my brush to paint a portrait of a richly emotional and stunningly beautiful scene.
This, technically, is not a lie.
Well ...
I should get going.

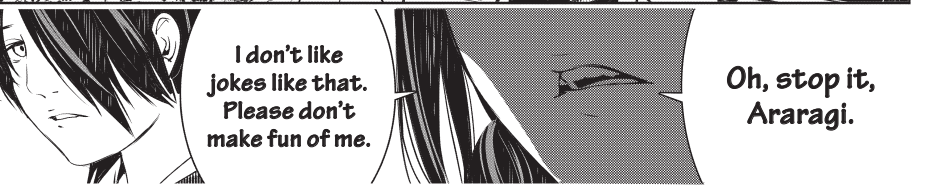
Wait up.
You're a fast walker, Araragi.
She's chasing after me, of all things?
And wait, she even has my name down?


...Why do you know my name?
Whaat?
Of course I know it. We go to the same school, don't we?
The same school?
It's not like we're in the same class...
Well, Araragi, you might not know about someone like me,
but you're pretty famous.

Huh?
Me?!
...
You're... Hanekawa.
Tsubasa Hanekawa, right?
WHOA.
WOW.


That's amazing, Araragi.
You know the name of a run-of-the-mill student like me?
You're the girl who, during final exams of the first trimester of our second year, got only one wrong answer—on a fill-in-the-blank question—across every subject, including health and PE as well as art.
There isn't a single person in this school who doesn't know the name Hanekawa.
I heard about you from an alien friend.
What?
You have friends, Araragi?
ASK ABOUT THE ALIEN BIT FIRST!
You're always alone, so I had the impression that you lived independently in a world apart from everyone else.
You don't actually think I'm that cool, do you?

KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
So she does seem to know about me.
But not too much about me.
Well, you're right that I don't have any friends.
Which makes you so famous that even a friendless loser knows who you are.


I don't like jokes like that. Please don't make fun of me.
Oh, stop it, Araragi.

WHRRRRRRR
KTUNK
KTUNK
KTUNK
KTUNK
For the first time...
Hanekawa looked a little bothered.
...Oh.
Hanekawa—a woman who, with only an embarrassed smile, quickly shrugged off the contents of her skirt being exposed for the world to see.
Her.

Do you believe in vampires?

They say ...
...there's a vampire here in town now.
And that's why you shouldn't walk around alone at night.
Why would there be a vampire in a place like this?
It seems made-up. Or kinda cheap, I guess.
Nice try, goody-two-shoes.
But you're not erasing my data with something like that.
Actually, I'm not letting it get erased no matter what!!
I think it's a ridiculous rumor, too.
But there's specific and detailed eyewitness testimony.
They say she's blonde and incredibly beautiful.
And that she has no shadow.
Hmm... Specific, huh.
KREAK

KREEAK

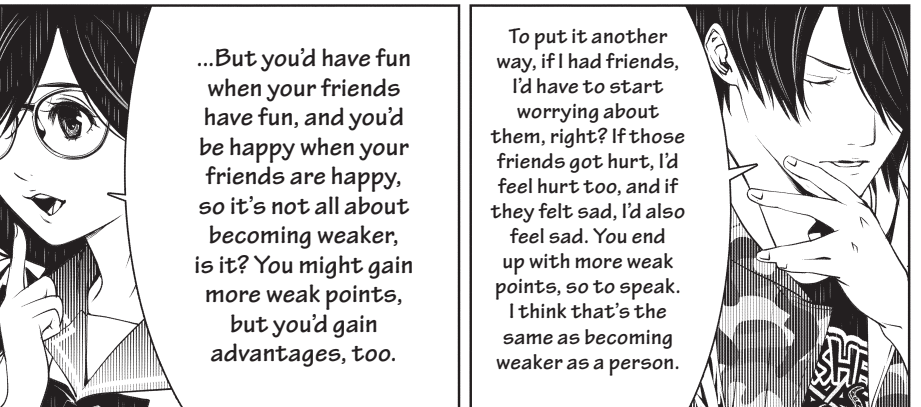
Per-
sonal-
ly,
if there
really is a
vampire,
I'd like
to meet
her.
You know
she'd
suck your
blood...
and kill
you,
right?
...
Hmm
...
Yes,
you're
right.
Maybe
it's not
accurate
to say
that I
want to
meet her.
It might
be more
correct
to say...
I'd like to
believe in
her.
I think it'd
be neat if
someone like
that existed—
some being who
was greater
than humans...

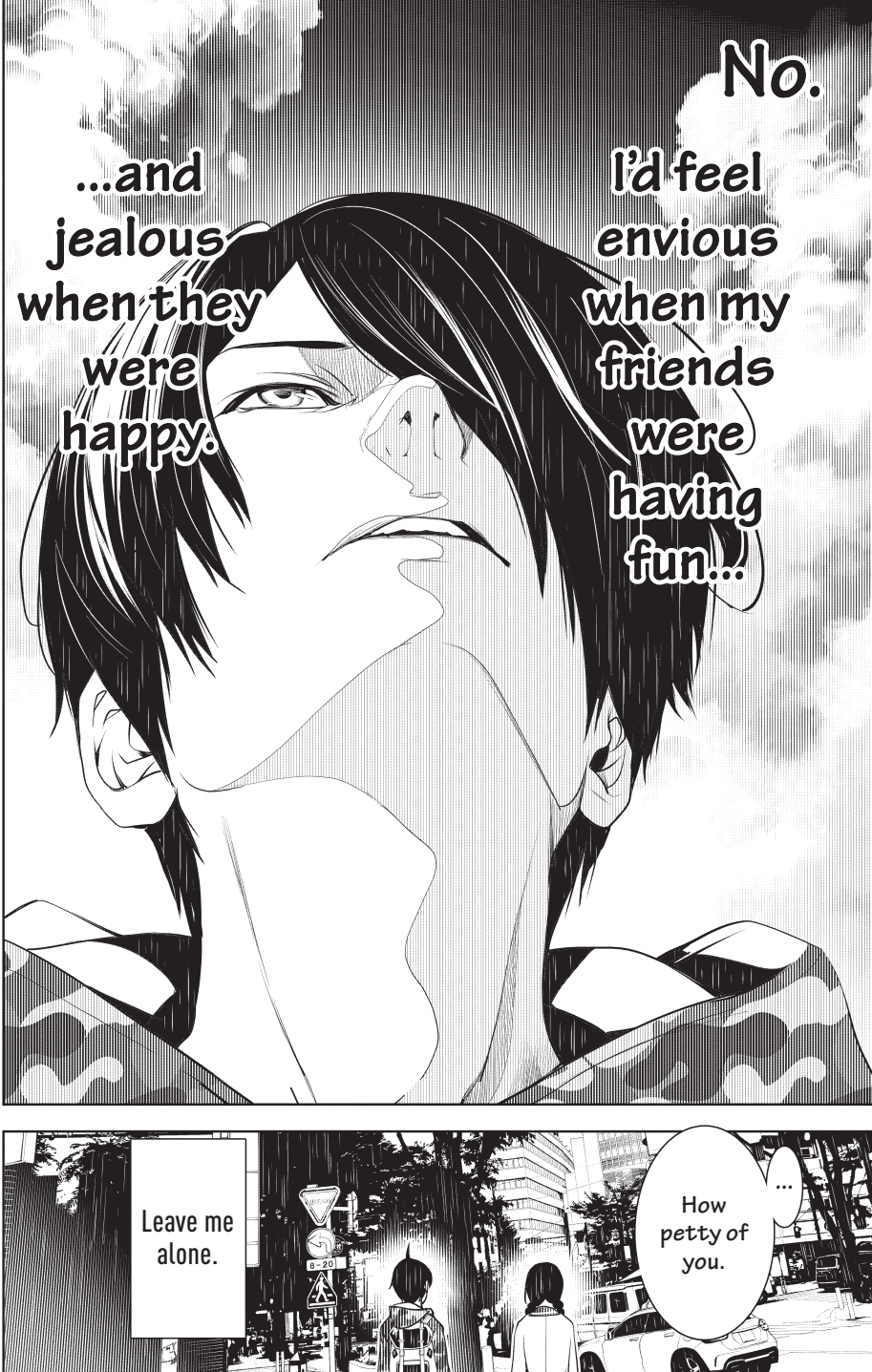
...where's the reward other-wise?
Because in so many ways...
Gotta love it.

To be honest, I had no idea what Hanekawa was saying.
In fact, I didn't even know what she was trying to say.
Did that even have anything to do with my question ...?
This girl's bad news ...
She's speaking in Japanese, but it feels like I'm hearing someone talk in a completely different, unknown language ...
Like she's an alien or a vampire.
Wait, I guess I was the one talking about aliens.
Whoops!
Oh, dear me.
You know, Araragi, you're surprisingly easy to talk to.
My tongue slipped, and I feel like I ended up saying something that didn't make much sense just now.

I find it strange that you don't have any friends
when you're this easy to talk to. Why don't you make some?
Because it would lower my intensity as a human.

...
Sorry.
I don't really understand ...
Er... Well, you know, it's like...


To put it another way, if I had friends, I'd have to start worrying about them, right? If those friends got hurt, I'd feel hurt too, and if they felt sad, I'd also feel sad. You end up with more weak points, so to speak. I think that's the same as becoming weaker as a person.
...But you'd have fun when your friends have fun, and you'd be happy when your friends are happy, so it's not all about becoming weaker, is it? You might gain more weak points, but you'd gain advantages, too.


No.
I'd feel envious when my friends were having fun...
...and jealous when they were happy.
Leave me alone.
...
How petty of you.

Do you have a smartphone, Araragi?
...
...Well, yeah. Of course.
Wow. It's the latest model.
...So that's what she's doing...
So she just wanted to make sure that I didn't take any photos of her panties...
That's a model student for you. Her mind runs at a mile a minute.
No offending pics, right?

TOO BAD FOR YOU.
Name
Favorite
Last
Hanekawa
First
Tsubasa
Last Furigana
Hanekawa
First Furigana
Tsubasa
Edit
Phone
080
LOOKS LIKE YOU JUST MADE A FRIEND! ♡

Ah, yes.
This is why...
...I want to become a plant.

BAKEMONOGATARI

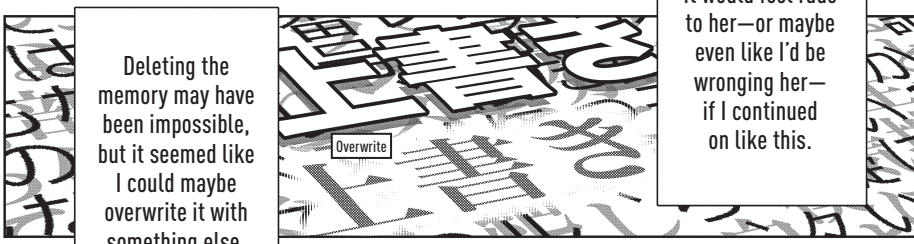
That night...

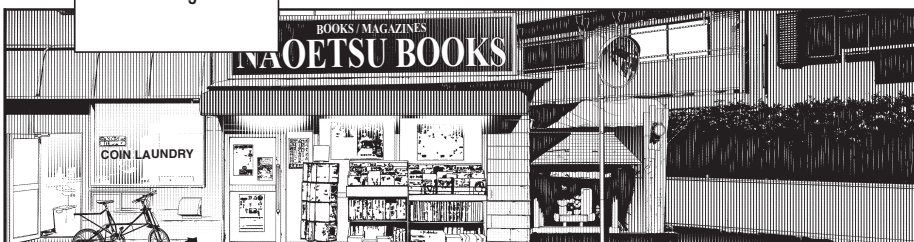
Even after we parted ways...

...I couldn't get her panties out of my head.

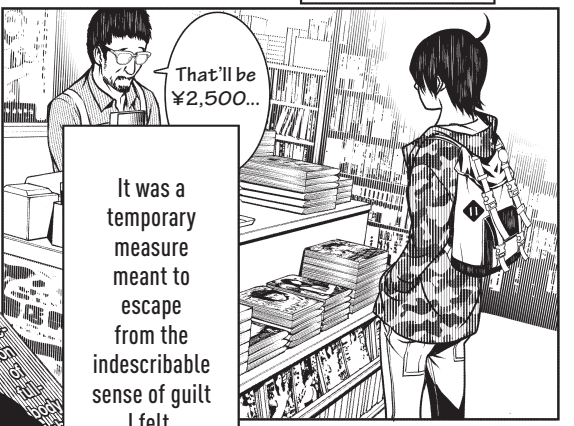
Rear-side details have been extrapolated.

I was certain we talked about all kinds of things.
But it was her panties that had made the strongest impression on me. What should I make of that?
She's a good person, though!
Hane-kawa's a good person, and yet...!

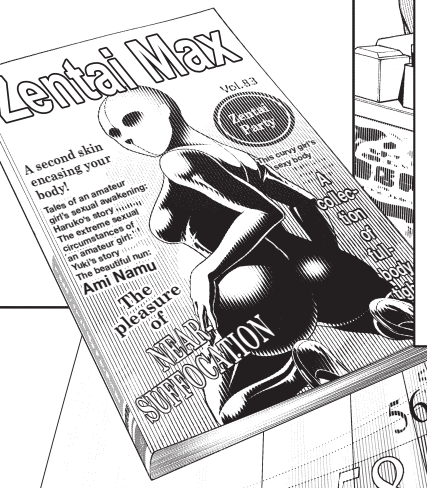

Overwrite
Deleting the memory may have been impossible, but it seemed like I could maybe overwrite it with something else.
It would feel rude to her—or maybe even like I'd be wronging her—if I continued on like this.


BOOKS / MAGAZINES
NAOETSU BOOKS
COIN LAUNDRY

In other words, by loading a dirty magazine into my memory, I could attempt to cloud the images I saw in my mind and cause the impression she'd made on me to fade.

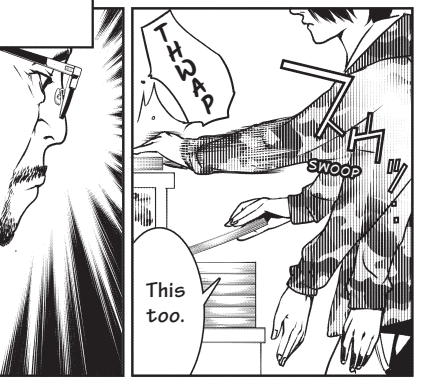


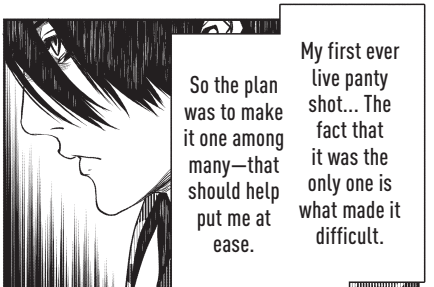
It was a temporary measure meant to escape from the indescribable sense of guilt I felt.



I concluded that this dirty magazine would be the optimal choice.

And... thanks to my painstaking prior research—





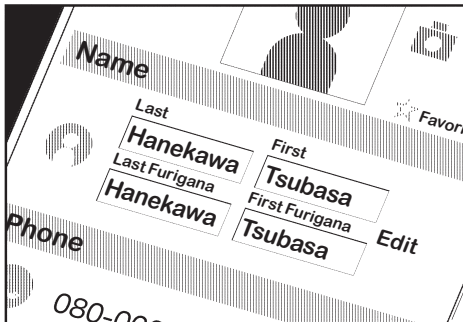
So the plan was to make it one among many—that should help put me at ease.

My first ever live panty shot... The fact that it was the only one is what made it difficult.

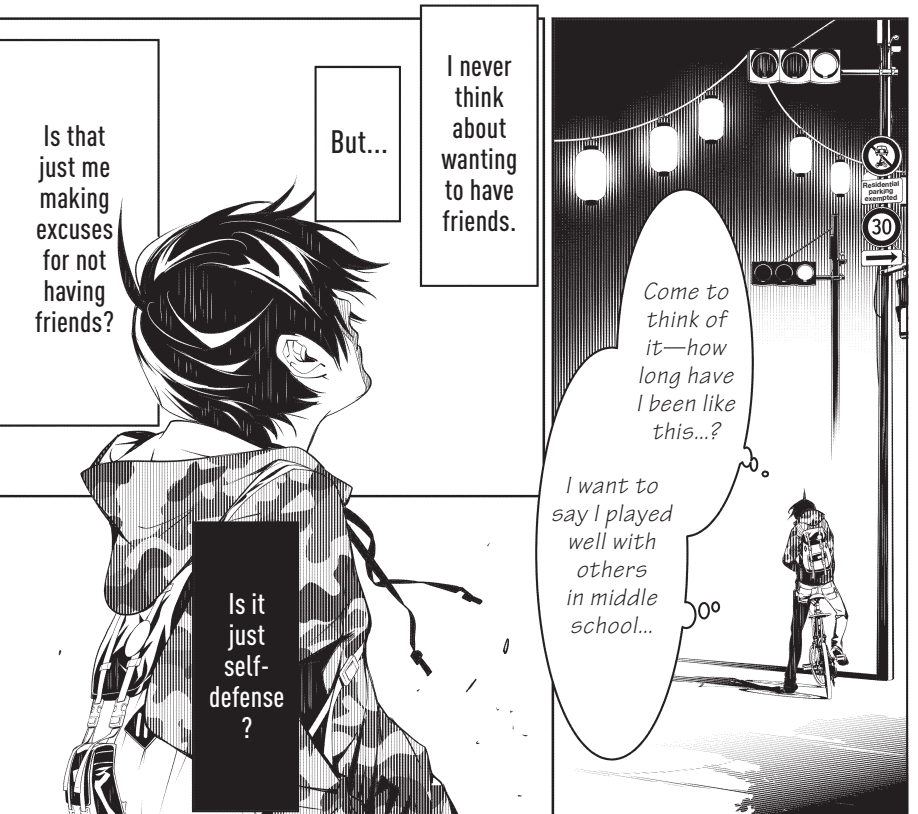
I don't see how an outside observer could ever figure it out.
For All the Glasses-Wearers
Class President Special
This was the true reason I bought this ultra-niche book for freaks.
It was all for the short, five-page special that began on page 63.
FSSSHHH
Even if my little sisters somehow manage to discover this, they'll never figure out my true intentions.
KREAK
POP
KRSH
Yes, it's the perfect decoy.
This is what it means to make the perfect decision.
It was quite a burden on my wallet,
but I couldn't allow myself to keep having such indecent thoughts about Hanekawa.

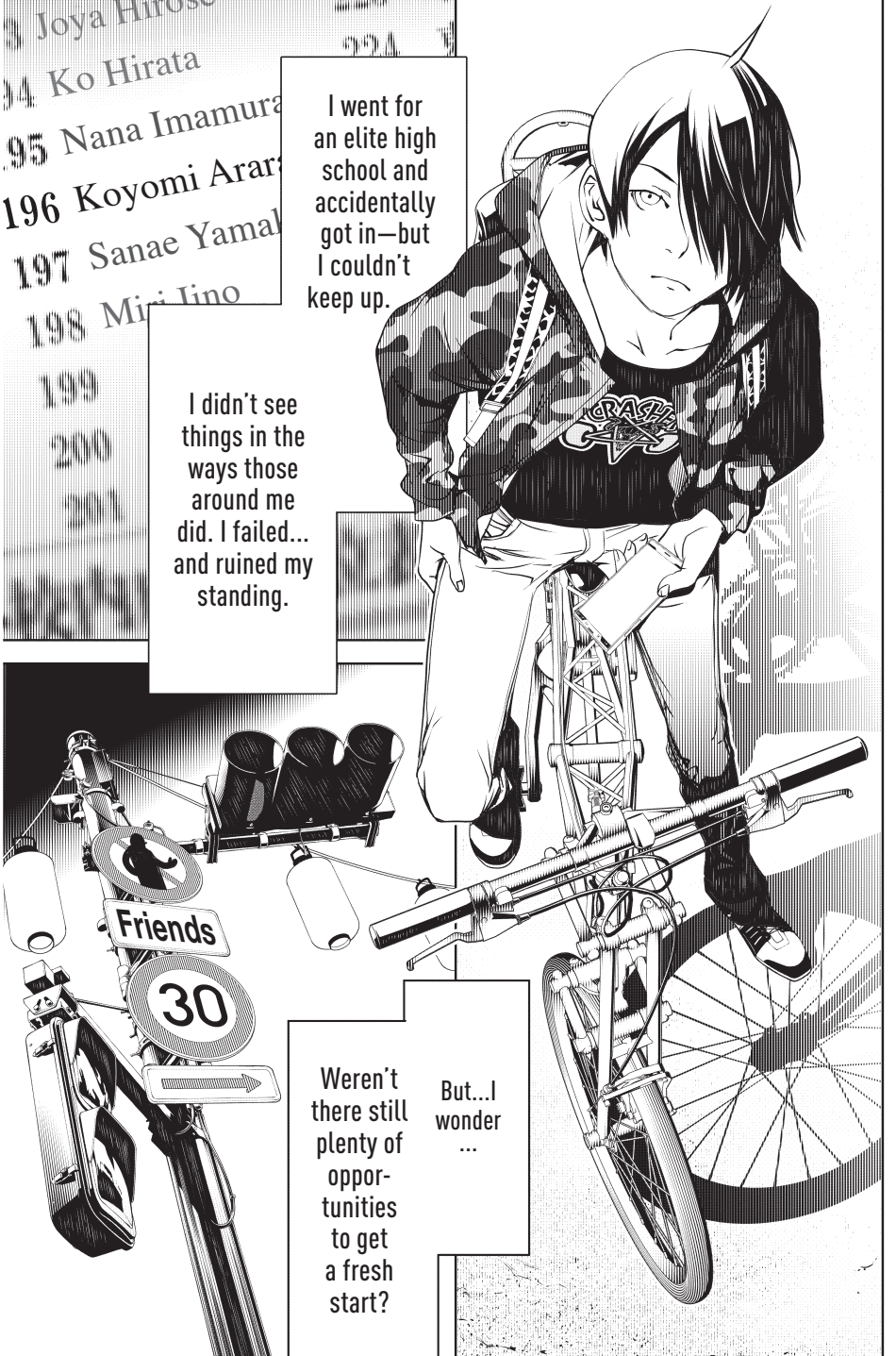
You know... that really isn't fair.
I mean... I doubt a girl would feel this way if she saw a boy's underwear, right?
This is why...
...I want to become a plant.
I wouldn't have to think anything. I wouldn't have to move.
It's not fair.
The guilt would kill me at this rate.
People talk about dying of boredom, but guilt can kill you, too.

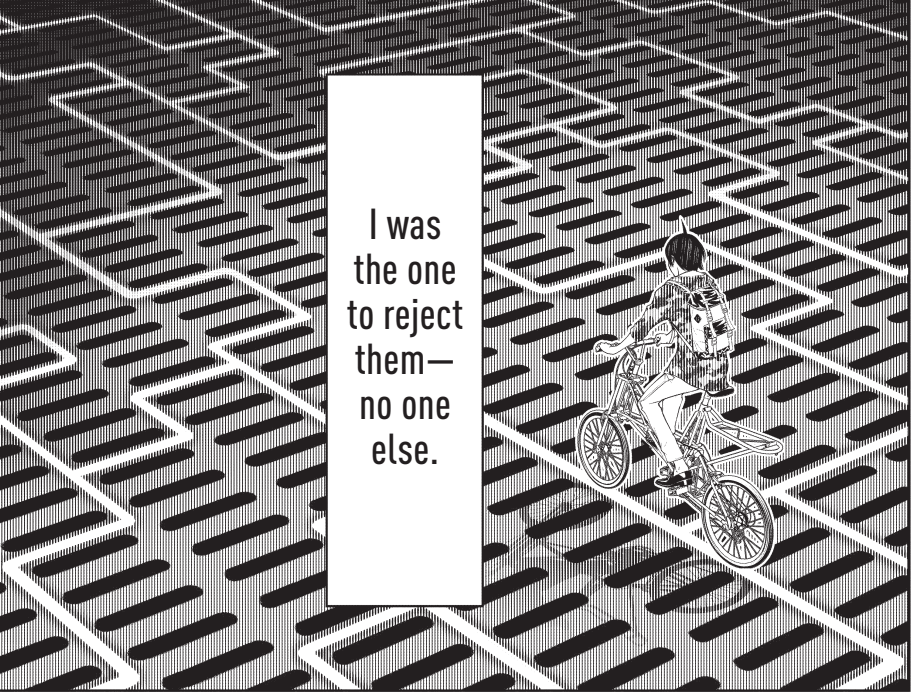
Too bad for you. Looks like...
...you just made a friend.


Name
Last
Hanekawa
First
Tsubasa
Last Furigana
Hanekawa
First Furigana
Tsubasa
Edit
Phone

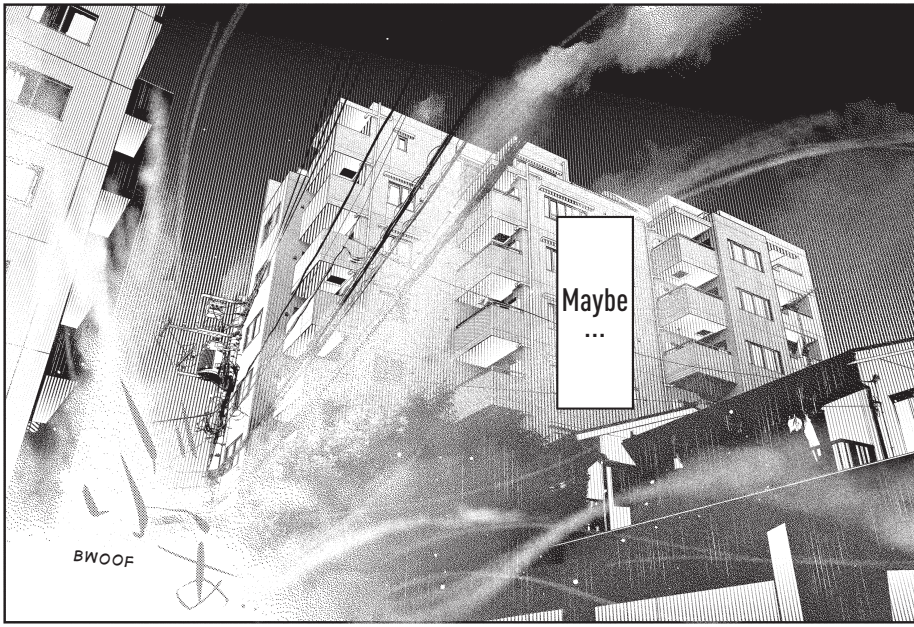
Some-
times,
I just
don't
get it.
It's
not
like
...
...I need
one or
any-
thing...
GIFTS

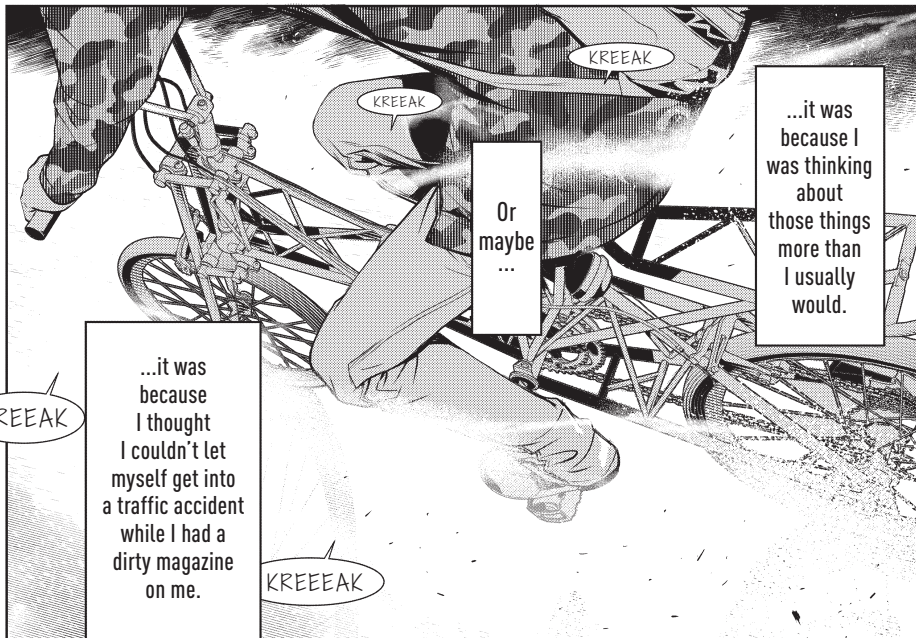

Is that
just me
making
excuses
for not
having
friends?
But...
I never
think
about
wanting
to have
friends.
Is it
just
self-
defense
?
Come to
think of
it—how
long have
I been like
this...?
I want to
say I played
well with
others
in middle
school...
30


Joya Hirose
Ko Hirata
Nana Imamura
Koyomi Arai
Sanae Yamal
Miri Jino
I went for an elite high school and accidentally got in—but I couldn't keep up.
I didn't see things in the ways those around me did. I failed... and ruined my standing.
Friends
30
Weren't there still plenty of opportunities to get a fresh start?
But...I wonder ...


I was the one to reject them—no one else.

I've even seen kids who barely ever talk with anyone else.
People without friends can just hang out with other friendless people.
You can still get by without friends, after all.
That's just one way to do things.
You can totally live your life that way.

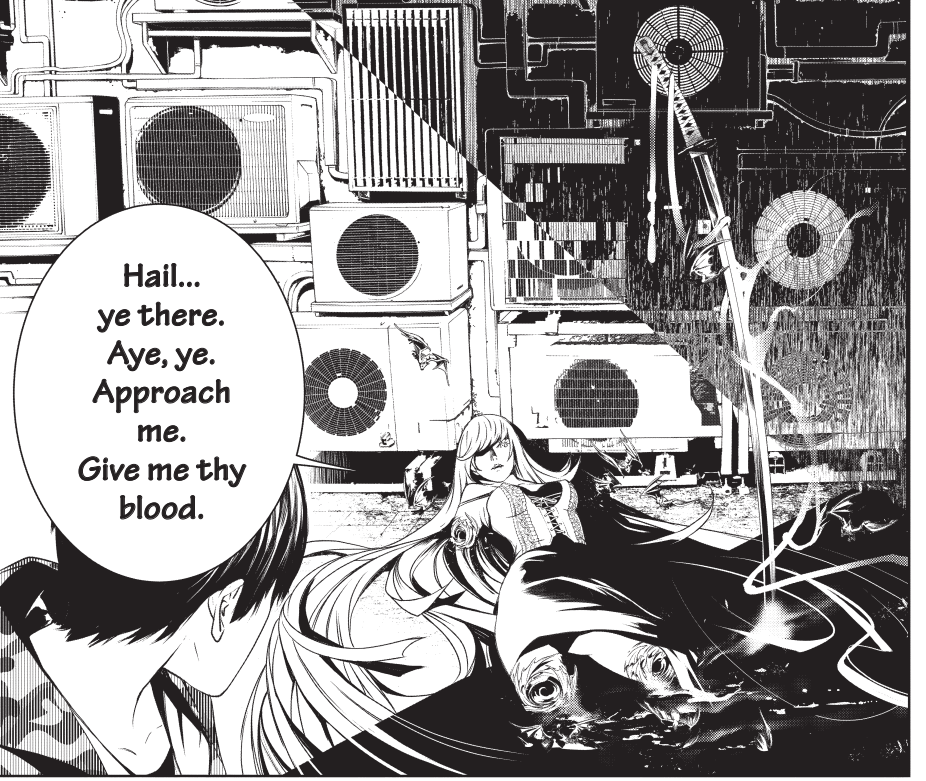

Maybe ...
BWOOF

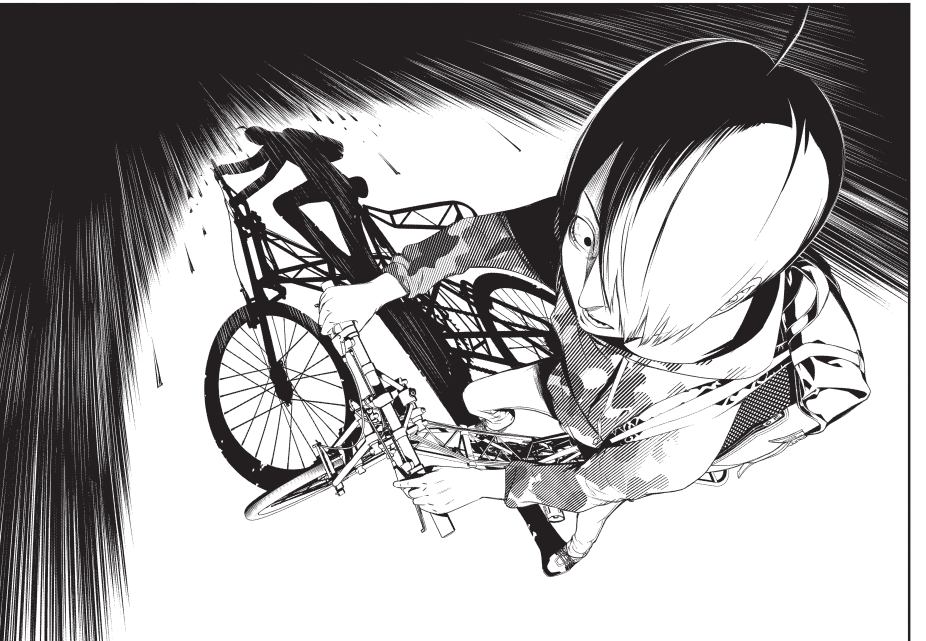

KREEAK
KREEAK
Or maybe ...
...it was because I was thinking about those things more than I usually would.
KREEAK
...it was because I thought I couldn't let myself get into a traffic accident while I had a dirty magazine on me.
KREEEAK

THNK
WHOOSH
TOBACCO
SKREE
But I chose ...
...a path I don't normally take. One that had no signs of people around.

KRAK
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
SKRR
ZSSH

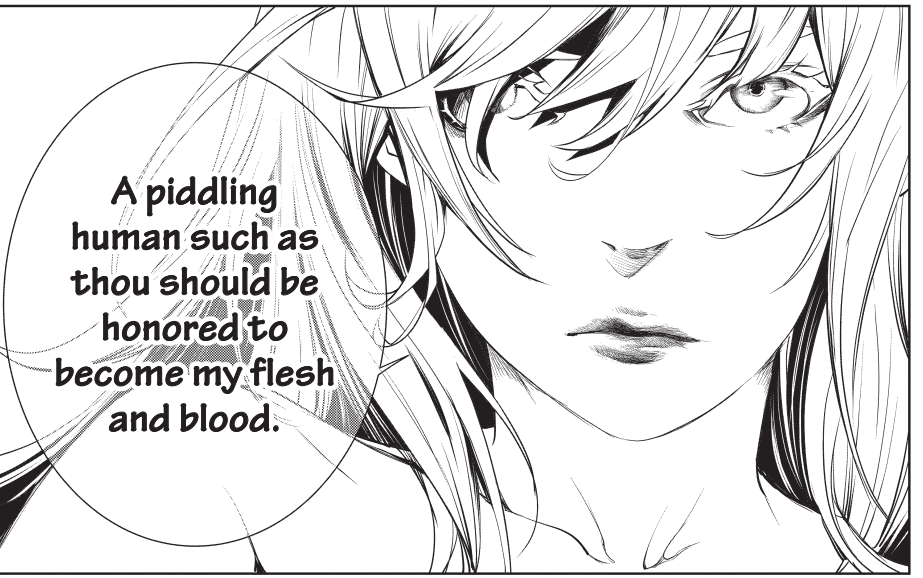
Ye.


Hail...
ye there.
Aye, ye.
Approach
me.
Give me thy
blood.

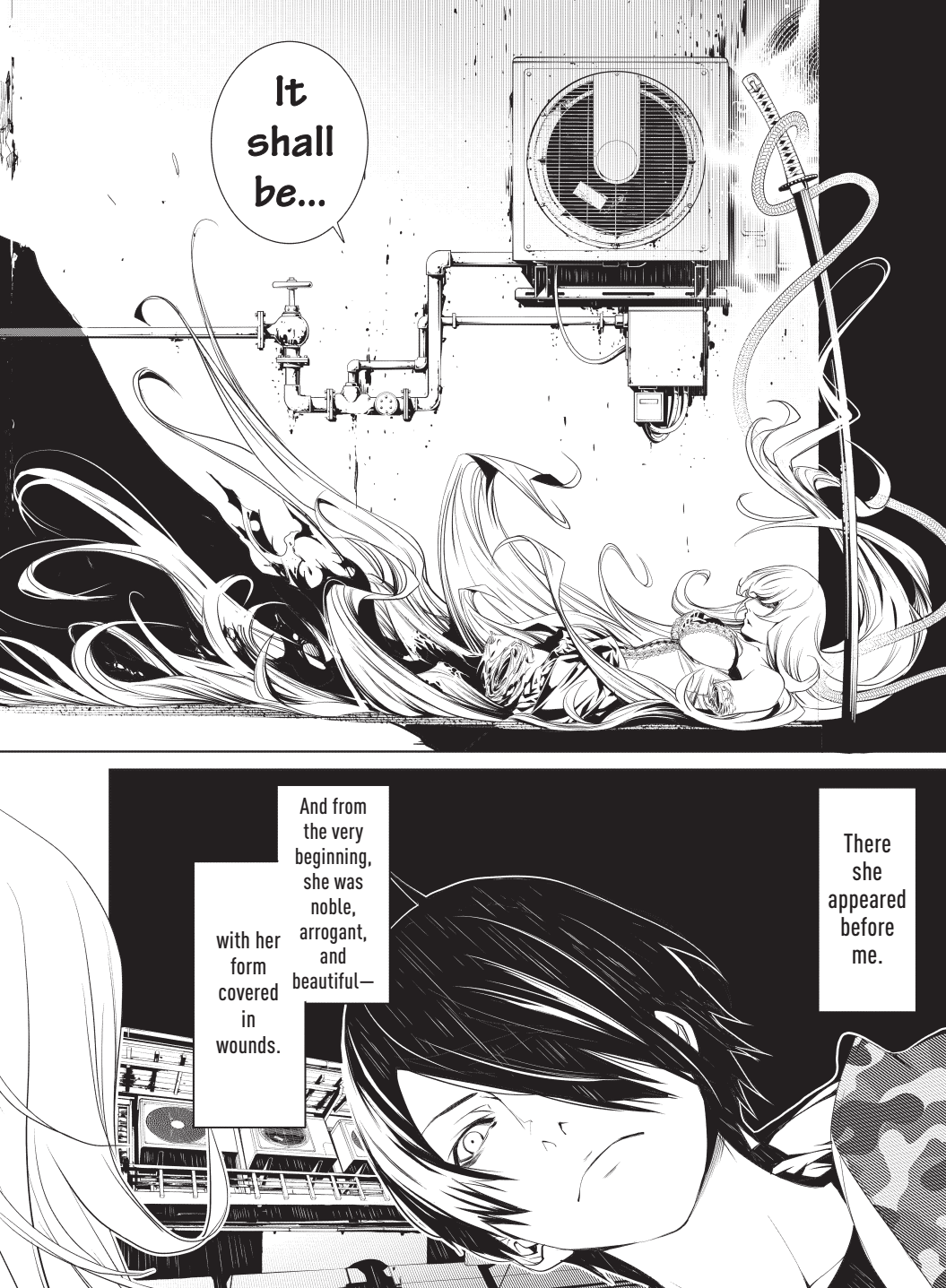


...with thy body's worth.
For the time being...I will be tided over...
Make haste ...
Come thee hither forthright.
Why dost thou dally, laggard?
This was it.
Blood sucking

TH-WUMP
TH-WUMP
My moment of first contact ...

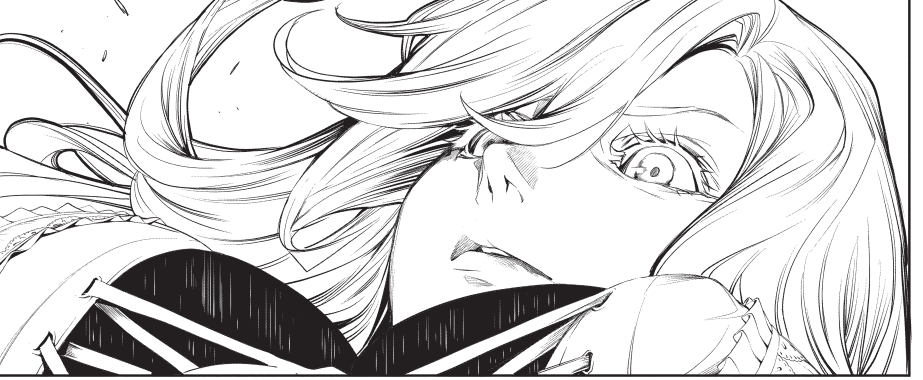

A piddling human such as thou should be honored to become my flesh and blood.

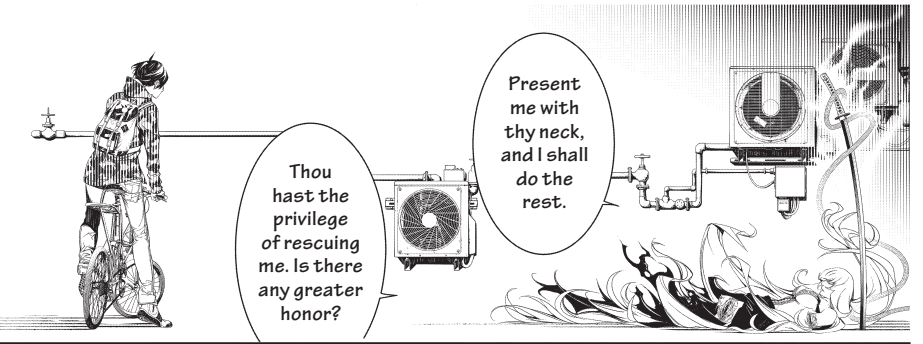
...Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade.
Vampire
...with the iron-blooded, hot-blooded, yet cold-blooded vampire...


It shall be...
There she appeared before me.
And from the very beginning, she was noble, arrogant, and beautiful—
with her form covered in wounds.

...thy privilege to aid me.
H...
But she looked to me so striking that it overpowered any such premonition.
I would only go on to wound her further, and I, too, would be wounded...

HA-
NE-
KA-
WA'S
PANT-
IES
!!!

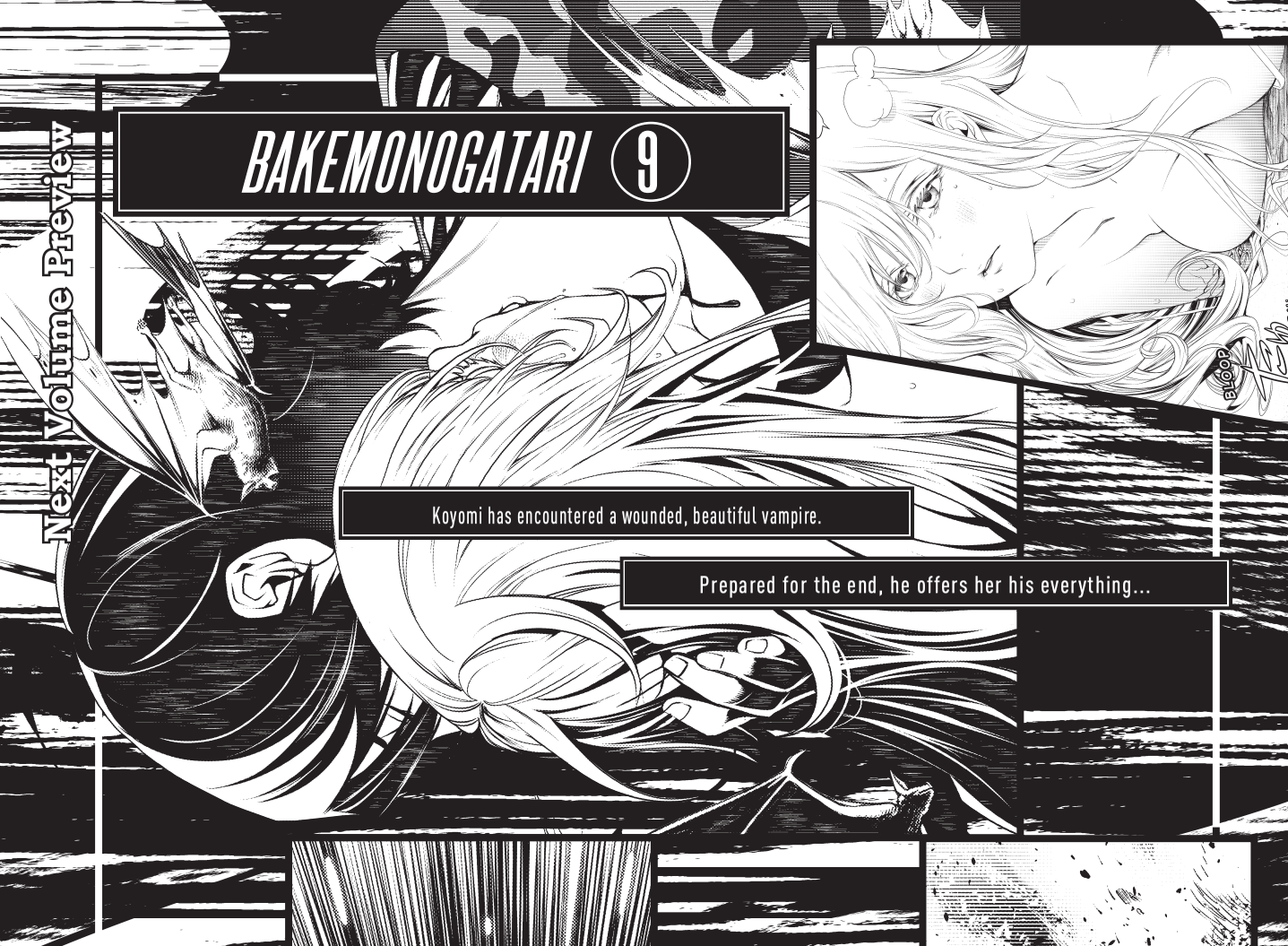


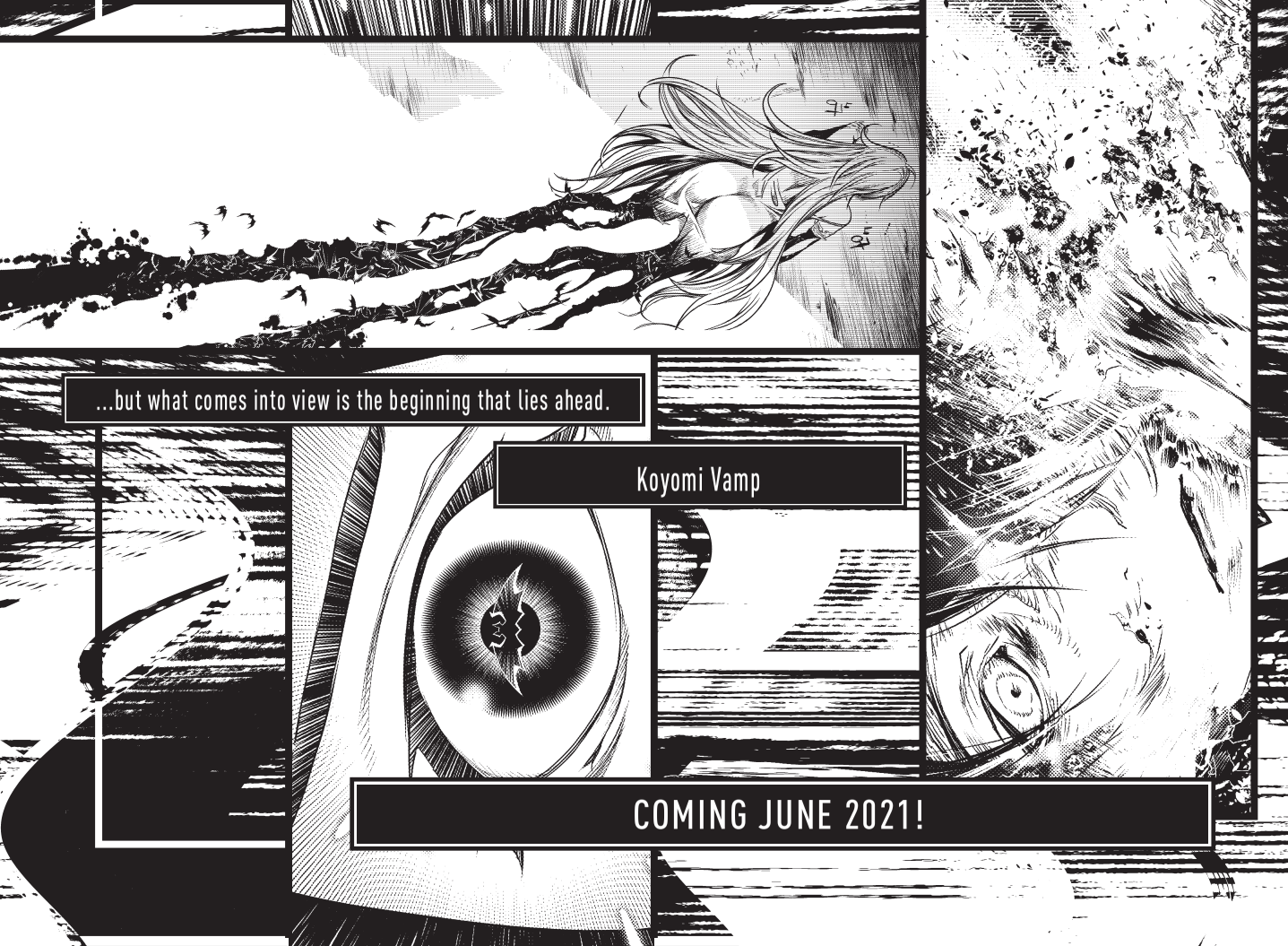

Present me with thy neck, and I shall do the rest.
Thou hast the privilege of rescuing me. Is there any greater honor?

HANE-KAWA'S PANTIES !!!
?!!

Thou ...
Things like that don't exist.
There's no vampire here.
I saw nothing! I heard nothing.
Denying
reality
OVER-WRITE MY MEMO-RIES!!
HANE-KAWA'S PANTIES !!!!!

Continued in Volume 9


Next Volume Preview
BAKEMONOGATARI 9
Koyomi has encountered a wounded, beautiful vampire.
Prepared for the end, he offers her his everything...


...but what comes into view is the beginning that lies ahead.
Koyomi Vamp
COMING JUNE 2021!

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 8

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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